THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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TOWN.....11-8
MOFUSSIL 13-4

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 10TH APRIL.

WE ARE EXCEEDINGLY sorry to learn that Major Baring is seriously ill with typhoid fever at Simla. Fever has been coming on all last week, and it has been found necessary to relieve him altogether for the present from the cares of public business. We are, however, glad to learn that the symptoms are considered favourable. Major Baring has had a great trial lately. We believe he needs rest, and hope that he will take it. Mr. Hope it is rumoured will act for him as Financial Member of the Council.

THE GOLDSMITHS' and Silversmiths' Free Trades Association have sent a memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for India, and the President of the Board of Trade, praying that the duties upon gold and silver plate may be totally abolished in April next. Among the reasons urged by the memorialists for the abolition of the duty upon silver plate is this:—"Regard being had to the depreciation in the price of raw material—silver—and the fall in the value of the Indian rupee, it is in the highest degree impolitic to maintain any hindrance in the way of its consumption for manufacturing purpose."

THE TIMES says, the proposal to build a new house for the Governor General of India, when resident at Simla, has been finally sanctioned. Public offices will also be constructed. One day Simla we fear will lose the plains.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the March number of the *Calcutta Journal of Medicine*. Besides the usual stock of professional subjects the *Journal* contains two articles of general interest one of which is on Coffee. We give the conclusions of the editor on the subject:

The conclusion which appears to follow from these researches is that it is necessary to take coffee very weak, but strongly sweetened with sugar, in order to facilitate the work of digestion. But the taste of consumers is not the same. Some will take coffee strong, some weak; some will drink it excessively-sugared, almost like syrup; others, who form the majority, with moderate quantities of sugar. There are others again who will take coffee without any sugar at all,—these call themselves *gourments* (connoisseurs) of coffee. How to reconcile the whole world in view of the results which we have indicated? It does not concern us to decide this question; we have simply wished to give a document capable of enlightening amateurs who will without doubt, in this as in very many other things, make, that is to say, follow their own tastes without occupying themselves with experiments or prescriptions of medicine.

SIR ROBERT EGERTON was present at the last annual meeting of the Anjuman-i-Punjab, at which in an address he is reported to have said:

"I can truly say that after many years of tolerably close intercourse with natives of this country, the more I know of them the more I like them. I am sure too that is the case of all officers who have served in this province and I would instance Sir R. Montgomery, one of my predecessors, with whom I have been in constant communication and who in all his letters shows the liveliest sympathy with the people and a strong desire to promote the well-being of the Punjab, though he has now left it for many years."

Sir Robert Egerton might have been very kind to the people, but how studiously did he shut out the English-educated men of the Punjab. They were his eye-sores, as they are of every patriarchal ruler.

SIR ROBERT EGERTON added:

"I would also add that I am more than ever stuck at the end of my career with the shallowness and insufficiency of my own knowledge of the character of the people. I feel this the more as I must attribute whatever measure of official success I may have obtained to the warm sympathy and cordial support which have always been accorded to me by the Punjabis, a sympathy and support which have rendered the task of governing this loyal and contented province easy and most satisfactory."

Man ought to be judged by his actions and not by his professions.

"THROWING OIL on troubled waters," it is said, has been literally resorted to with great success by the captain of the Calcutta liner *Airlie*, which arrived in Dundee on the 14th ultimo after a stormy passage lasting over 131 days. Captain Foreman reports that on the 28th February a hurricane prevailed lasting four days, and when at its height he determined to try the effect of allaying the sea with oil. For this purpose a number of perforated bags were filled with oil and towed in the sea on the weather side of the vessel. This was continued for forty-eight hours, and was entirely successful. The waves, which had been breaking constantly over the ship, gradually ceased, and soon moderated so much that the crew were able to work with safety on the deck, and the sea in the immediate vicinity of the vessel became comparatively smooth. Captain Foreman is of opinion that had it not been for the use of the oil the ship, had she not foundered, would have had her decks swept. Another instance is reported in the *Englishman*.

TUESDAY, 11TH APRIL.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE in accepting the office of President of the East India Association, delivered an interesting address, reviewing Indian politics generally. He thus spoke on the subject of education:

He would say that the high education given partly by the Government and partly by private missionary institutions, had been fraught with blessings to the upper classes of the natives, improving them morally and intellectually, and therefore the Association should not countenance those who disparaged it in favour of primary education. Missionary effort had done all it could, but with all its zeal and energy it was inadequate to the need, and therefore Government must do a great deal, for the want was still great especially in the interior of the country, of an increased number of colleges. The system of the Government paying half and the natives paying half the cost of this high art education had worked well, and it should be the object now for the Government to offer a large number of scholarships to be competed for by the most talented youths throughout the Empire, so that those belonging to the poorer classes should not be out by the cost of education.

We commend the above to the Education Commission.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the first number of a journal entitled the *Indigo Planters' Gazette*. Although the organ of a special class, it will deal in general politics. The first number is full of promise.

THE ABOVE JOURNAL has a very fair article on "the new tariff as it affects tea." Referring to certain remarks of the *Tea Gazette* on the subject our contemporary says:

We fail to see in what way the removal of this duty handicaps the Indian industry. It may be true that, until the repeal of the duty, China tea was handicapped, and that weight being removed, places China tea so much nearer on equality with Indian. It seems then to amount to this, that justice and fair play are supposed to consist in taxing foreigners, that we may have an advantage. We fear the day for this sort of opinion has passed, and we must endeavour to entertain a more liberal and charitable feeling towards each other. The imports of China tea during the last three years were as follows:—

1878-79	...	...	...	lbs. 1,822,345
1879-80	...	...	...	,, 2,534,518
1880-81	...	...	...	,, 3,322,407

Our contemporary looks forward to "considerable and immediate expansion of the imports of China tea as the result of an entire freedom from duty." This is not worthy of our contemporary. The tariff valuation on imported tea was 10 annas per lb., and the duty five per cent, consequently Lord Ripon's new tariff will effect a saving to importers of exactly 6 pies per lb., and we do not think this sum need frighten the Indian Shareholders, It seems to be overlooked that the China merchant is already handicapped by the amount of his freight from China, and charges at either end, which practically amount to a protective duty in favour of the Indian producer, and it is unreasonable that we should desire to add an import duty as well.

We entirely concur.

THE NIZAM'S COLLEGE has been affiliated to the Bombay University up to the B. A. class. The College, under the Principalship of Dr. Aghore Nath Chatterjee, has proved very successful, and has this year passed ten marticulation and two F. A. students.

THE STATE OF AFFAIRS in Ireland seems to be very unsatisfactory. The Government is pursuing the same course that Mr. Gubbins used to follow to put down the budmashes of Benares. The *Daily Telegraph* writes:

"There are five hundred and thirty-seven persons in gaol. At no previous period of Irish history during this century have we had so many untried persons detained. The failure of co-erection is the most striking feature of the day."

The *Standard* says:

"Here we have six hundred Irishmen, well-known in their own neighbourhoods, arbitrarily imprisoned, general dissatisfaction with the Act, and obstinate refusal to pay rent, an alarming increase in the number and ferocity of agrarian outrages, a complete stultification of the system of justice, a hopeless block in the Land Courts, and universal distrust of the Government."

The *hajut* system is simply cruel.

WEDNESDAY 12TH APRIL.

IT IS STATED that a sum of between £15,000 and £20,000 will shortly be subscribed for Mrs. Adam, in recognition of the parliamentary services of her husband, the late Governor of Madras. This is the way political whipping pays in England.

ANOTHER SPEECH is said to have been delivered by General Scobeleff at Warsaw, on his way to St. Petersburg in which he declared that all he had previously said had been well considered. His recall, he added, was only a new humiliation proceeding from the man who with blood and iron had founded an empire, which must be destroyed by Russian blood and iron. Rumours current in Vienna are to the effect that the Czar is exceedingly anxious to destroy the effect produced abroad by General Scobeleff's speeches, but finds a difficulty in doing so. He is, it is said, afraid publicly to reprimand the General.

THE COMING reduction in the Madras army will probably include the abolition of Berhampore (Ganjam), Sumbulpore, and even Cuttack, the capital of Orissa, as stations for native regiments. The regiments at Cuttack, the 32nd, is said to be among the eight regiments doomed to be abolished.

AT A RECENT meeting of the Lahore Municipality the question of the water-rate was discussed. The local Government lately approved of a rate of twelve annas per thousand gallons, to be commuted to a rate per tap, depending on the diameter of the tap. Water is to be given free to hospitals and charitable institutions, and at half price to buildings occupied for a religious purpose. No charge is to be made in any shape for water drawn from the stand-posts in the public streets. As there seemed to be a feeling that the twelve annas rate was too high, the matter was remitted to a sub-Committee for report.

THE ENGLISHMAN publishes another letter on the subject of forced labour in Assam. The writer says:

The present Chief Commissioner of this Province is debited with liberal almost radical, opinions. But his faculties appear to tend towards the exercise of arbitrary power, and in his anxiety to make a supernatural improvement in the condition of the provincial communications, he has initiated a very crude system of compulsory labour. Practically he has placed the rural population at the disposal of the mouzadars, a class notoriously unprincipled and corrupt. He has authorized these men to prepare lists of those whose condition warrants their employment upon the public roads. The natural result, which any officer of two year's standing could have foretold, has been that pointed out by your correspondent. A case is now pending in the Sibsagar Court against a mouzadar for receiving over Rs. 2,000 to omit registering names in his list of laborers.

We cannot understand why Mr. Elliot, who is a sensible man, has sanctioned this oppressive system.

THE TEA-PLANTERS as might be expected are taking advantage of the forced labour system:

Cases have occurred in which Assamese contractors, employed on tea estates, having had an advance forced upon them, have refused to labour on the roads, pleading their prior engagement. But, like Pharoah King of Egypt, the Deputy Commissioner would not let the people go, and summoned them to show cause why they should not be punished for refusing to obey a legal order. They appeared, but not alone. Their employer, anxious too about his work, appeared with them, and the Court thinking that the joke had gone far enough, released the recusants untouched. This reckless and unlawful exercise of executive powers cannot but tend to deprave the administration of justice, and confer upon the Courts even more distrust and contempt than they formerly enjoyed.

In the meantime the poor labourers suffer.

THE MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE has passed the following Resolution regarding the Indian Budget:

"That the directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce have read with great satisfaction the telegraphic summary of the Indian financial budget introduced at Calcutta on the 8th instant. The general prosperity of which the favourable financial position in evidence is matter for sincere congratulation, and it is felt that, in dealing with the surplus by removing all import duties except those on wines and a few other articles, and thus leaving capital and labour to find their natural, and consequently most productive, field, giving relief to the poor by lessening the cost of clothing as well as by lowering the salt tax, the Indian Government has adopted measures which are the best calculated to advance the well-being of the people, to extend their commercial

ntercourse with their fellow-subjects in England, and to promote the prosperity of both.

You scratch my back, I scratch your's !

THURSDAY, 13TH APRIL.

The following is from a correspondent at Sherepore (Bogra) :—

The poor have no doubt been highly benefitted by the reduction of salt-duty, but the absency of a lower copper coin than half pice detracts much from that benefit. If there be a profuse supply of pie pieces the poer may largely avail themselves of the benefit accruing from the reduction of salt-duty. *Sundhub* or rock salt is still largely in use in the Mofussil, but the reduction of duty it is believed will not affect its price. Heretofore this salt sold here @ 6 seers per rupee. if it be available at the same price with imported salt it would have benefitted many helpless widows and poor up-country Brahmins, who largely use this salt for its want of that acrid taste which common salt possesses. It might confer real benefit if the duty be wholly abolished and the restrictions from local manufacture wholly removed.

ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT from Dogachi :

The reduction of salt duty has resulted in an appreciable fall in the price of salt. Before the reduction the actual retail price of salt at this place was Rs. 3 per maund of 60 tollahs seer now it is Rs. 2-4 per maud of the same weight. The merchants and second-hand dealers who have large stocks of salt in their gollahs purchased at the pre-reduction price are in a critical position, bankruptcy stares them in the face. Petty shop-keepers are still selling a kachi seer at one and half pie. One cannot fail to notice that while the reduction has entailed a loss of about 70 lakhs of rupees in Bengal it has appreciably benefitted nobody.

THE SAME CORRESPONDENT mentions that there was a tremendous thunder-storm at Dogachi on the evening of the 7th instant, which sunk several passengers and cargo boats. The fall of a large *aswatta* tree on a bungalow imperilled the lives of nine persons, one of whom has sustained serious injuries. The bungalow was crushed by the weight of the tree.

OUR GOSSAIN DURGAPUR correspondent writes :

Salt is selling here at 1¼ pice less per seer than the former rate, but the people dont think much of it. The following bazar prices have been proclaimed by beat of drum in the Chosdangah Sub-division :—

Ke osine oil	@	1 6	per seer
Salt		1 anna	ditto
Coarse Grey madapollams		1 anna	per yd.
Ditto better sort		1 6	ditto

Country weavers consider this interference very inconvenient. The salt merchants are paralized by the reduction in the price of salt, which however is not appreciated by the masses, who would rather have a reduction in the prices of food grains ; the middle classes cry for remission of direct taxes.

THERE were 292 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 8th April, of which 75 were from cholera, none from small pox, 80 from fever, 32 from bowel complaints, 1 from accident, 23 from pthisis and asthma, 15 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Nineteen children were still-born, 73 died between the ages of 15 days and under and above 15 days and under one year. Among non-Asiatic Christians the deaths were 20. The average of daily mortality was 41·7.

WE HAVE RECEIVED several letters regarding the sub-divison of Ghattal. It seems that there are two parties, who are partizans of two Deputy Magistrates. We do not like to fan the flame of party feeling in this small Sub-division by publishing these letters.

THE MAHRATHA thus condemns the Resolutions of the Bombay Government on local self-Government : "We must plainly say that the Bombay government has simply thrown cold water on the warmth excited by the Viceroy's resolutions and speeches, and has shown that it does not mean to take the proposals of the Government of India at all seriously." So Bengal is better off in this respect, notwithstanding the abuse heaped upon the devoted head of Sir Ashley Eden for his alleged proclivities against Representative Government.

WE HAVE received the following telegram from the Press Commissioner's Office :

Simla 13th April.—The Amir has sent orders for advance of money being made to Sirdar Mohsin Khan who is reported to have left Kandahar for Kabul. Governor of Kandahar escorted him to some distance.

FRIDAY, 14TH APRIL.

WE HAVE neither time nor space to comment at length on the *Statesman's* reply to our article in our last on Free Trade, but we must acknowledge the courtesy and fairness with which our contemporary answers us. Referring to this article our contemporary says, "it is, perhaps, the most moderate and reasonable we have lately seen in the Indian Press on the protectionist side." We do not see any reason why we should be called protectionists, when we are not opposed to free trade. But let that pass. Our contemporary reads a long lecture on the technical meaning of free trade and thus concludes :

Our space is exhausted to-day, but before closing, we may briefly say that we appear to have done the *Patriot* injustice in supposing that it wished Indian tea to be admitted free into England without freeing China tea. It repudiates such a policy. We also admit that it is perfectly open to our contemporary to argue that the interests of the Indian revenue should have prevented the removal of the import duties. Free traders hold that no import duty, in so far as it is protective, can in the long run be otherwise than an injury to the country which retains it ; but they admit that present necessities of revenue may justify its temporary retention.

As our contemporary substantially agrees with us, notwithstanding technical differences we have hardly any cause for quarrel.

WE ARE informed by a China paper that *Man Man San*, or "Ten thousand people Umbrella," and an address embroidered on satin, are being made in Canton for presentation to Governor Hennessy by the Chinese community of that colony, and will be forwarded to his Excellency when finished. The red umbrella will bear the four characters, *Wai, Po, Quan, Lai*—("favour, protection, all, people"), and below an inscription to the effect that it is respectfully presented by the community of Hong-Kong.

THE cash balances in Government treasuries on the last day of March for the last three years were as follows :

1880	...	...	13,02,95,000
1881	...	...	13,37,11,000
1882	...	...	14,60,11,000

SO THE BENGAL IRON Works Company has collapsed. The sale of the block and stock to the Government of India was concluded yesterday, and realised the sum of Rs. 4,30,761-1-2.

THERE was an important sale of musical copyrights in Paris the other day. Verdi's "Aida" realised £4,000 ; "Ernani," £580 ; "Don Carlos," £370 ; the "Requiem Mass," £260 ; and "Simon Boccanegra," £130.

SIR CHARLES AITCHISON has taken over charge of the Punjab Government, and Sir Alfred Lyall will assume the reins of the North-West Government on Monday next. Both of them are competition men.

SATURDAY, 15TH APRIL.

ACCORDING to an up-country paper Mr. Justice Oldfield's furlough has been refused, owing to the very heavy work at present devolving on the Judges of the High Court of the North-West Provinces. If this statement be correct, then we fear the appointment of a Native Judge to the North-West High Court is postponed. We are sorry for this.

A PUNJAB CORRESPONDENT, writing to the *Bombay Gazette*, says : "Thoeburn, the Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ismail Khan, the district to which Mahommed Hyat Khan is posted, has been at feud with the latter for years past. Hyat protested against being sent there, but he had to go all the same with a peace-making chit from the Secretary." Perhaps the scorpion has been let loose upon Hyat Khan in order to make him leave the service. We think he had better resign.

WE HAVE received the first two numbers of the *Leisure-Hour*. We wish it success.

THERE APPEARS now to be no doubt that a revolution recently took place at the palace of Mandalay, leading to the death of Yanoung Mintha, the main champion of the Queen's party. Since his death it is said his brother and also the Kaunee Atwinwoon, have committed suicide or have been executed. These events have materially strengthened Theebaw's position.

ACCORDING TO THE *Bombay Gazette*, the Government of India has decided that a High Court shall be established in British Burma, to consist of three Judges, with full jurisdiction of every sort over the whole of Burma, including the Admiralty and Vice-Admiralty jurisdictions now exercised over the territorial waters. The Courts of the Judicial Commissioner and the Recorder of Rangoon are to be amalgamated ; and these two Judges are now engaged in preparing a scheme for the new tribunal.

WE ARE requested to draw attention to an advertizement of the National Theatre announcing Shakespearian readings.

WE HAVE received the following telegram from the Press Commissioner's Office :

Simla 14th April.—It was lately rumoured that 140 Russians with four guns had gone from Askabad to Tejend to erect a fort and had been expelled by Tekkes of Tejend aided by those of Merv. This is denied by the Russian authorities, who state that about fifty Cossacks were sent to Karibend on the Tejend river to secure safety of Russian merchants, who had lately gone to Merv when the Cossacks reached Karibend if orders were given for their immediate return. The report that they had guns is denied.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals :—1. Report on the Criminal Judical Administration of the Central Provinces. 2. By whom India is Governed, a paper read before the East India Association on March 23rd 1882. By John Dacosta, London. 3. A Companion Geography to the Atlas for the use of schools. By Iswarpersad Pyne B. A. 4. Babu Nilcomul Mitra's letter to the Sub-divisonal Officer of Serampore on the Turkessur Railway. 5. The Stationery Trades' Journal vol. III. No. 25 for 22nd March 1882 6. Saddarshana-Chintanika or Studies in Indian Philosophy vol. 6, No. 1. 7. Tatwabodhini Patrika for Baisakh 1289 B. E. 8. Arya Durshun, a Bengali monthly vol. VII, Nos. 6 and 7. 9. Acharya do. vol I. No. 7. 10. Nalini do. vol. II, Nos. 10, 11 and 12. 11. Probahu, a new do. vol. I, No. 1. 12. Gyandipika, a Murshedabad Bengali Journal Nos. 5 to 6. 13. Sivadayika Patrika, vol. I No. 1. 14. The Bengal Miscellany, an English monthly edited by Bishnupada Chatterjee, M. A. vol. I, No. 10. 15. The Children's Friend, a Bengali monthly, vol. I, No. 7. 16. Fifty-first Annual Report of the District Charitable Society for 1881. 17. Report on the Administration of the Province of Assam for 1880-81.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, 12th April.—The German and Austrian Press express great satisfaction at the appointment of M. Giers as the Russian Foreign Minister. Prince Leopold has recovered from his late indisposition, and his marriage is fixed for the 27th instant. An American suspect has been released at Naas. The *Standard* publishes a paragraph, stating that the shareholders of the principal Indian Banks are seriously considering the question of fusion with a view to economising expenditure in working.

13th—At a Conservative banquet at Liverpool, yesterday, Lord Salisbury made a speech in which he expressed his opinion that the Irish Land Act cannot last, and he approved the scheme for providing facilities for small tenants to purchase the farms in their occupation on just and reasonable terms.

The Queen, who has derived much benefit from her change to Mentone, is now returning to Windsor.

Obituary.—Lieutenant General Cannon and Lieutenant Colonel Dehardy.

14th.—At the Conservative demonstration in Liverpool Lord Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote still continue delivering speeches containing onslaughts upon the policy of Government.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

(SESSION 1882.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on Thursday, the 20th Inst., at 7½ P. M.
Subject : Optical Instruments.

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Friday, the 21st Inst., at 7½ P. M.
Subject : Change of State in bodies by Heat. Fusion and Solidification.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, F.C.S. F.I.C., on Saturday, the 22nd Inst., at 3 P. M.
Subject : Compounds of Nitrogen with Oxygen.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, APRIL, 17, 1882.

SIR ASHLEY EDEN.

SIR ASHLEY EDEN'S career has been the theme of both prose and verse, not only in the English language but also in the vernacular and in Sanskrit. To review it in the columns of the *Patriot.* is, however, a delicate task. There is a class of our young countrymen, who seem to think that we have been too friendly, too partial, too forbearing to him. They go to the length of saying that if we had adopted the same outspokenness towards him that we had used towards Sir George Campbell, he would have long ere this vacated his high office. It is needless for us to remind them that we are no blind admirer of Sir Ashley Eden ; if we have given praise where praise has been due, we have likewise accorded censure where censure has been merited. Of course we have not indulged in Billingsgate, simply because that's not our way. But if we have not painted him as a George Campbell, it is because he has not approached that *avatar* of the Indian bureaucracy. When Sir Ashley Eden was appointed to the Belvedere *musnud*, our young men in common with their elders hailed his appointment with acclamation and joy. They welcomed him as one of their kith and kin—as one, who having been a tried friend of their country for a quarter of a century, would be but too ready to carry out his cherished wishes for the ameliora-

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tion of the condition of the people—in fact, they said, the man and the hour had come. And they were not wrong. But there was too much expectation on one side, and too much faith on the other. Our countrymen forgot that though Sir Ashley Eden was appointed the head of the Local Government his authority was not supreme. He could not have his own way in all things. He must obey the commands from above, and must carry out measures, however distasteful to himself or to the people, when emanating from higher authority. On the other hand Sir Ashley Eden has always been a plain-spoken man; he means what he says, and says what he means. This has been the distinguishing trait in his character throughout his life. He has never burked his opinion, though it might concern his own countrymen, his official superiors, aye, his best friends. He did not spare the Indigo-planters, because they were his countrymen; he did not fear to break the lance with his own Commissioner (Mr. Grote) and his Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Frederic Halliday), because they did not agree with him on the great indigo-question; he did not hesitate to brand his best friends in the Civil Service, when they doled out justice according to color and creed. With the natives of the country he had been friendly and frank, and he was not accustomed to hear complaints, because he in the spirit of true friendship pointed out their faults and foibles. Relying on his old faith he began his career as Lieutenant-Governor by telling a few blunt truths about the Vernacular Press, the mischievous effects of which he deepened by the manner in which he supported the Vernacular Press Act. On both the occasions we said that Sir Ashley Eden had been mistaken. We did not question his good faith, but whatever his own feeling in the matter, it could not be denied that he played himself, however unconsciously, into the hands of the enemies of the country. These did not hesitate to crow or cry how bad must be the natives when their best friend painted them in such dark colors. Sir Ashley thought that his native friends had grown too sensitive, but that they were not so in his earlier days, and he was right. The feeling of exasperation caused by his remarks on the Vernacular Press was aggravated by his attitude towards the elected Municipality of Calcutta. Our young countrymen felt as if Sir Ashley was opposed to their hopes and aspirations, and they have ever since been in a state of chronic opposition to him. Nothing said by him pleases them, nothing done by him meets with their approval. Strange to say that he who was the god of their idolatry when he first assumed the reins of the Bengal Government has suddenly become with some of them the subject of bitter invective and rank abuse. We regret this very much. In politics as in other affairs of life there may be honest differences of opinion, but when we differ we ought to differ as gentlemen. Then again we may happen to differ on one or two points in the policy of a ruler, but that is no reason that we should find fault with him in matters in which he far from deserving blame deserves praise. In political agitation it is of the utmost importance that we should learn fairness and moderation, and endeavour to subordinate passion and personal feeling to reason and justice. Mere rant carries no weight—mere abuse carries no conviction. On the contrary unreasoning violence defeats its own object. It tends to alienate the sympathy of good and moderate men, who, however desirous to do justice to the claims of the people, are apt to withhold their sympathy, when these claims are urged in total disregard of the amenities of life, of considerations of truth and justice, and of the well-understood canons of public criticism. We are quite willing to make due allowance for the fervour of youth, and because we do believe that the hope of the nation centres in the young generation, we venture to urge upon them the necessity of moderation. We write in no spirit of egotism when we say that it has been our humble endeavour during the last five-and-twenty years to inform our countrymen, both old and young, of the true state of the country and to entreat them to combine and co-operate for the advancement of its weal. When we commenced to work how few workers were there!—when we commenced to cry what a howling wilderness did the political outlook of the country resemble! But we persevered, and it affords us no small satisfaction to see that our labours have not been in vain—that the political education going on for the last quarter of a century has not been resultless: the Bengali has become the political missionary for the whole country, and his influence is felt in the Council, on the platform, and in the press. Having gained this position it would be a national calamity if we should lose it or suffer it to be reduced from want of judgment and moderation. If we should wish to acquire influence with our rulers, we should learn to deal fairly with them, should not impute motives where bad motives do not exist, or make sweeping generalizations for the sake of isolated facts, regarding which we may differ from the powers that be. Take for instance Sir Ashley Eden's career; there may be honest differences of opinion regarding certain points in it; from our stand-point of view he has undoubtedly committed blunders, but we ought to judge it as a whole, we ought not to pass a sweeping condemnation upon it for the sake of a few errors here and there as we understand them. In the rapid review which we propose to make of Sir Ashley Eden's rule we hope to shew that it has been eminently successful and beneficial, though there may have been a few lapses here and there like spots in the sun. To Sir Ashley Eden we think it cannot but be a matter of regret that any portion of our countrymen should be dissatisfied with his administration, but he knows well that no ruler of men can satisfy all parties. Even such a ruler as Mr. Gladstone, justly beloved as People's William, has his enemies; the carping tongue and the finger of calumny and contumely are not unfrequently directed against him. But Sir Ashley Eden may have this satisfaction. Time was when he was abused, vilified, and censured by his own countrymen for his bold and generous championship of the ryot's cause, in his battle with the Indigo planters, but they now see the justice and righteousness of the part he then played, and they are now his warmest admirers. Similarly a time may come, when the passions of the fleeting hour will have passed away, and when those of our young countrymen, who in the fervour of youth are so vehement against him, will have sobered down under the chastening influence of years, the same men on an impartial examination of his deeds, will be the foremost in recognizing his claims to the gratitude of the nation. We have thought it necessary to make these preliminary remarks to shew that difference of opinion on two or three points in Sir Ashley Eden's career as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal cannot cancel our obligation to him for the enormous good he has done to the country, and that our young men will injure the national cause in the estimation of the British public, who cannot be expected to guage the current of personal feelings flowing underneath by heaping upon the devoted head of one of the best friends of the people rank abuse and vile vituperation,

Sir Ashley Eden arrived in this country in 1852. He was first appointed Assistant Magistrate and Collector of Rajshye, and was for a short time in charge of the sub-division of Nattore. It was there he laid the foundation of his experience of Northern Bengal, which has afterwards proved so useful to him in devising means of communication and improvement for that part of the country. He was then transferred to the sub-division of Arungabad in the district of Moorshedabad. It was there Mr. Eden, young as he was, first signalized himself. The Sonthals had risen in rebellion, and spread great terror through the surrounding country. "It was wise for the interests of Government and the protection of life and property," writes the author of *Sonthalia and the Sonthals*, "that this intelligence came to one, who had ability to conceive, and energy to carry out, a plan, which probably saved the towns of Jungipore, Moorshedabad, and the surrounding countries from being looted." With the aid of the neighbouring zemindars, with whom he was on excellent terms, Ms. Eden kept the insurgents at bay till the troops came to his aid. To his activity, energy courage and resources was in a great measure due the suppression of the Sonthal revolt. In recognition of his services on this occasion he was appointed the first Deputy Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnas, and from his counsels proceeded those measures, which matured by Mr. Yule, the Commissioner, proved so successful in pacifying Sonthalsthan. Mr. Eden now sought for rest, and he took a flight to the Mauritius, where his bowels of compassion were moved by the sufferings of the Indian coolies at the hands of the Creole planters. An Indian print wrote: "the massacre of the Indian Coolies perpetrated at Flat Island under the name of quarantine, roused Mr. Eden's indignation. His scathing letters in the local papers drove the Creole planter's wild; while his statements to Government on his return to Calcutta led Lord Canning summarily to suspend all Coolie emigration to the Mauritius until the Colonial Government gave substantial guarantees that such a scandal should not recur." On return to India he was appointed Joint-Magistrate and Collector of Baraset, where he became acquainted with the iniquities of the Indigo system. Possessed of a keen sympathy with down-trodden humanity his blood boiled as he turned page after page of his book of indigo experience. He hurled sharp letters at the then Commissioner and the then Lieutenant Governor, whose sympathy was with the blue fraternity. He also wrote bitter satires in the columns of the *Indian Field* and the *Indian Empire*, but he could not move the then Lord of Belvedere. But with the change of *regime* dawned a new era for the long suffering Indigo ryots of Bengal. Sir John Peter Grant, than whom Bengal had not seen an ablerGovernor, was made of sterner stuff, and he would not allow his reign to be tainted with the support of the vicious Indigo system. He echoed the cry raised by Mr. Eden from Baraset and appointed the memorable Indigo Commission in 1860. The Indigo enquiry is a long story, which we have neither space nor time to recount, but the readers of this journal are familiar with it, and no other native took a more valiant part in the battle for the emancipation of the Indigo ryot than our illustrious predecessor, the founder of the *Patriot*, Babu Hurrishchunder Mookerjea. Mr. Eden was one of the witnesses before the Indigo Commission, and he gave his evidence with a fullness of detail, clearness of facts, and a force and firmness, which drew all eyes towards him from one end of the country to the other. From this day we might say the people of Bengal elected him as their future ruler. He was next appointed Collector of Pooree, then of Cuttuck, afterwards Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue. In 1861 he was deputed as the British Envoy to the Court of Sikkim. It is not necessary for us to go into the details of the Sikkim mission; suffice it to say that it was eminently successful. Mr. Eden was firm but not exacting; he had four objects in view, compensation to the British Government and subjects for the losses and injuries sustained by them, opening out of the country to trade and the offer of facilities to it through Thibet, the removal of all restrictions on travellers and merchants from the British territories, and the banishment of Dewan Namgay, who was at the bottom of the conspiracy against the Paramount Power. The Sikkim Raja has ever since become a fast friend of the British Government. In 1862 Sir Cecil Beadon appointed Mr. Eden Secretary to the Government of Bengal. His lift gave rise to some jealousy and heart-burning, as he superseded several senior officers, but no one could deny his talents and abilities and peculiar fitness for the office. In 1863 he was deputed as Special Envoy to Bhutan, and the Bhutan Mission marks a rather dark page in the history of his career, not that he proved unequal to the task or performed his duties perfunctorily, but because he was made the victim of official jealousy and faint-heartedness somewhere in the bureaus of the Governments of India. But the White Pamphlet about the Bhutan Mission and Sir Charles Wood's despatch have fully vindicated Mr. Eden. On return from Bhutan Mr. Eden reverted to the Bengal Secretariat, where he enjoyed the confidence of both Sir Cecil Beadon and Sir William Grey. Master of a facile and powerful pen he took a large share in the war which

was then carried on between the Government of Bengal and the Government of India in those days regarding some important matters of Provincial administration. Lord Mayo, however, saw his worth, and in an autograph letter offered him the appointment of Chief Commissioner of British Burma. Mr. Eden roused British Burma from the sleep of years, and when he left that territory, there was such a flow of prosperity and contentment there, that it was no exaggeration to say that he left it a Garden of Eden. In 1875 Lord Northbrook appointed him on Additional Member of the Legislative Council, his Lordship having unbounded confidence in him from the counsels he received from him during the famine of 1873-74. In February 1876 he took furlough, and in December of that year he returned as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

The appointment of Mr. Eden to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal as we have said at the outset, was hailed with universal joy and acclamation. But Sir Ashley was himself not easy about it. It is true that he came to the possession of what was looked upon as his legitimate inheritance as it were; he had spent the best part of his life in Bengal, he had lived with its people as one of them, he had identified himself with them, and taken a most active part in the amelioration of their condition and the advancement of their welfare, and he could not but feel great satisfaction in being put in charge of his own province. But the then situation of Bengal not a little marred his satisfaction. Mr. Eden was present at the famous Imperial Assemblage of Delhi on the 1st January 1877. On that memorable occasion a Council was held of the great Proconsuls, who had met in the old imperial city. Some were charged with the administration of famine, and others with the levy of fresh taxation. It fell to Mr. Eden's lot to raise new taxes. This was the first message he brought from Delhi. Of course he was not responsible for it; the programme had been framed by Sir John Strachey, the then Finance Minister, and as a subordinate Governor it was his duty to obey. However he might regret the task, he must perform it, and consequently his very first move was distasteful to the people. The ignorant multitude as a matter of course identified him with the new Public Works Cess, but the knowing few well knew that he was merely an instrument in the hands of the Government of India. What we however, did not agree with him about in this matter was his interpretation of the Permanent Settlement Regulations. We were aware that he could not justify the measure without repudiating the doctrine that the imposition of the cess was an infringement of the pledges of the Permanent Settlement, but we did not and do not still accept his construction of the law. Immediately on his accession to office Mr. Eden was called upon to consider the case of a very deserving but deeply wronged public servant—we allude to Mr. J. B. Roberts. That Tribune of the People, as he was justly called, for his fearless championship of the interests of the people in the Calcutta Municipality, was not, as the reader is aware, a favourite of the Bengal Government. Sir George Campbell had removed him from the Police Bench, because he was intractable as a corporator of Calcutta, and Sir Richard Temple, who hated him, wanted to pension him off, though he was then in full vigour of life. The notification for the *Gazette* was ready, but Mr. Eden arrived just in time to save from semistarvation that really deserving but much injured public servant. This was one of his first acts, and a good augury. Under Sir Richard Temple the wheels of his administrative machine had become loose, and in the early part of his administration Mr. Eden's time was chiefly occupied with the restoration of the machine to order. The Secretariate staff was reconstituted, the separation of the Civil Service into two distinct branches, the executive and the judicial, was carried out on definite principles, the relations of the Director of Public Instruction with the Government were revised, and the different departments of the state brought under closer inspection. The Police were taken in hand for revision, and a saving of more than a lakh and a half per annum was effected. In the administration of criminal justice the Lieutenant-Governor directed special attention to the bad livelihood sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, which were detrimental to the liberty of the subject, and caused much injustice and hardship.

In the first year of his rule Mr. Eden directed his attention to the relations subsisting between the landlord and the tenant in Northern Behar. Fortunately it was not necessary for the Lieutenant-Governor to take strong measures to bring about a reconciliation between the landlords and tenants in Northern Behar. At the end of last year when His Honor visited Behar he acknowledged that the depression in the condition of the ryots noticed by him in the first year of his administration no longer existed, that the relations between the landlords and tenants were now cordial, and good harvests had brought prosperity to the agricultural population. The condition of the indigo ryots in Behar had been worse, but it too has considerably improved under the healthy influence of the Lieutenant-Governor's action, which was neither coercive nor repressive, but conciliatory and firm. Although we are not prepared to say that there has been a root and branch reform in the indigo system in Behar as in Bengal, still we have ample evidence to show that the indigo ryot now gets a fair return for his labour, and that his rights are more respected. The most revolting feature of the indigo system of Behar is the *ticcadari* system, under which the planter practically derives the right of slave-driving over the tenanty of the estate of which he takes lease. Mr. Eden strongly denounced the *ticcadari* system, but it is so complicated that nothing can be done with it without violence to vested interests. This requires legislation, and perhaps the new Rent Bill will deal with it. In the meantime we must say that Sir Cecil Beadon and Sir William Grey had taken in hand the indigo question, but were not able to carry it through. Whatever improvement has lately been effected in the system in Behar, it is due entirely to the exertions of Sir Ashley Eden.

We have neither time nor space to follow the administration of Sir Ashley Eden chronologically and will therefore confine our remarks to its salient points. He was made a Knight Commander of the Star of India in 1879.

Firstly, the administration of justice. Immediately on his assumption of the Government of Bengal Sir Arthur Hobhouse's Civil Procedure Bill came before the Legislative Council. There was a provision in this Bill excluding the jurisdiction of the Native Judges over Government suits. Sir Ashley Eden at once saw the invidiousness of the provision, and in recording his opinion on the Bill he wrote a strong minute against it. He said that such a provision would be a serious reflection upon the Native Judges. He contended that if these Judges were good enough for the private individual, surely they were good enough for the Government, and as it was the Government, which was responsible for their appointment, it ought not to shew want of confidence in them by withdrawing their jurisdiction over Government suits. Mr. Frank Cockerell, who was the author of this provision, had contended that some of the Munsifs had shewn bias against Government, but Sir Ashley Eden replied that if they shewed any such bias it could be corrected in appeal. It was at his instance the Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore moved the omission of the invidious section, which was supported by Sir Ashley in Council, and ultimately carried. We have already noticed the separation of the Covenanted Service into two branches—the judicial and the executive. Two important measures were adopted for the improvement of the judicial administration of the province, viz., the trial of civil suits by junior civilian, and the establishment of special Rent Courts. The object of the first of these measures was to provide a good judicial training for all covenanted civilians, who might elect the judicial branch, and to remove the anomaly under which, since the separation of the service into two distinct branches, civilians of 11 or 12 years' standing have often been called upon to hear as Judges criminal appeals from District Magistrates and civil appeals from Subordinate Judges of 20 years' standing without having themselves ever heard a single criminal appeal or a single civil suit. The object of the second measure was to expedite the disposal of rent-suits, and to prevent their progress being impeded by the coexistence in the same court of complicated and contested civil cases. Under the scheme, which is now being tried in nearly half the districts in the province, there are special courts for the trial solely of rent-suits and Small Cause Court cases, the work being so distributed among the different Munsifs in the areas in which the scheme is in force that all regular civil suits are tried by a different set of Munsifs from those entrusted with rent-suits and cases of the Small Cause Court class. As a part of the scheme for the improvement of the administration of justice steps were taken to increase the number of natives in the Subordinate Executive and Judicial Services. In furtherance of the scheme of extended employment of natives of India the strength of the Covenanted Civil Service was reduced by the abolition of the grade of assistant commissioners of non-regulation districts. Thirty new Deputy Magistrates have been appointed, and the number of Munsifs was increased. We regret that for want of funds the initial pay of the Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs was reduced, but we are glad to find that one of the last acts of Sir Ashley has been to improve the position and prospects of these two important branches of the service. As we announced last week Sir Ashley has recommended that every Deputy Magistrate on probation and every acting Munsif shall receive Rs. 200 per month, and that as soon as the former will have passed the first examination and the latter will have been confirmed, both will receive Rs. 250 per month. An experiment in the association of natives with the appellate bench was made by the appointment of Babu Brojendra Kumar Seal to the office of District Judge. The success which has attended this experiment will we hope lead the Government to extend it further. In the lower grades of the subordinate executive service several changes have been made with a view to render the service more attractive. The lowest grade has been abolished, and a new grade of canoongoes formed with a salary intermediate between that of the second grade of Sub-Deputy Collectors and the higher grade of canoongoes. Great abuses used to be committed by the Police and the District Magistracy in the name of law by the enforcement of what are called the bad livelihood sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. We have already said that Sir Ashley Eden immediately on his accession to office directed his attention to this subject, and took steps for the protection of the liberty of the poor subject. The abuse has now been greatly removed. As an auxiliary to the administration of justice he declared Hindi as the language of the Courts in Behar. This question had been long pending, and it was finally decided by Sir Ashley Eden to the great satisfaction of the bulk of the population, the failure of justice in criminal sessions led Sir Ashley to issue practical instructions for proper Police investigation and preliminary magisterial enquiry.

Secondly, Legislation.—One of the greatest evils of British rule in India is over-legislation. But Sir Ashley Eden has no diseased craving for legislative innovations. In this respect he is a commendable conservative. In his own Council he has during the whole term of his office passed a few amending Bills to tinker certain laws and Regulations, and three consolidation Bills. In the Upper Council he has also raised his voice against excessive and superfluous legislation. Only last sessions owing to his protest some of the Codification Bills of Mr. Stokes were not made applicable to Bengal. The Factory Bill which as drafted aimed a deadly blow at manufacturing industry in this country, was, in consequence of the bold stand made by him, made almost inocuous when it was passed into law. There is nothing like an Opposition in the Indian Legislative Council, but Sir Ashley Eden to a certain extent supplied that place, and as he commanded a following, his voice, apart from his high position, has necessarily great weight.

Thirdly, Rent-Bill.—We have written on this subject *ad nauseam* and will not therefore repeat what we have already said. Our opinion on the Bill is well known. As we understand it, it is destined to do more harm than good. It

is not wanted, but by forcing it upon the country Sir Ashley we are afraid is sowing seeds of dissension between the zemindar and the ryot, which may lead to serious consequences hereafter. But whatever our opinion on the subject, we must candidly confess that there is a large mass of opinion in support of this measure. In fact the enemies of Sir Ashley Eden say that this is the only measure, for which his name will be cherished in grateful recollection by the millions of this country. Be that as it may his motives in introducing this measure cannot be impeached, though his judgment may be open to question. It cannot be denied that the Rent Bill constitutes a signal proof of the sympathy of Sir Ashley Eden for the peasantry of Bengal, whose cause, be it remembered, he has espoused from the commencement of his career in this country.

Fourthly, Finance.—Sir Ashley Eden has proved the best financier of Bengal. In fact, the management of the finances has been the strongest point in his administration. When he came from the Delhi Assemblage to Belvedere in the beginning of 1877, he came with Sir John Strachey's *ticcadari bundbust* of provincial finance in his pocket. The decentralization scheme, the reader will remember, was initiated in 1871, under which certain spending departments were entrusted to the local Governments. It was chiefly with a view to economy in administration that the Government of Lord Mayo determined to make the local Government responsible for the financial management of these branches of the administration. In 1877 the system of decentralization took another step in advance. The Government of India, while handing over other great departments of expenditure to the local Governments, also entrusted to their use and responsibility, on fixed terms of progressive payment, all the principal revenues, which could be deemed capable of steady expansion under careful local management. This system has had its advantages and disadvantages. In Bengal it was heralded by a new tax on land, we mean the Public Works Cess. The charge for interest on productive public works was transferred to the provincial account, and the Lieutenant-Governor was invited to raise by taxation the funds necessary to meet existing charges as well as to provide for new works. The Public Works Cess Act of 1877 was accordingly passed. The Bengal Cess was thus a new link in the chain of decentralization. But if Bengal was saddled with a new tax with the inauguration of the new system, it has undoubtedly benefited in various ways under its operation. By careful and economical management the Bengal Government has been able to augment the provincial revenues, while it has kept provincial expenditure under effective control. It has been unfettered in the selection of the objects of expenditure, and though it was handicapped by the orders of the Secretary of State with regard to public works expediture, it has done a great deal for the material improvement of the country. The flourishing state of provincial finance in Bengal tempted the Finance Minister, Sir John Strachey, more than once to break the five years' contract, but Sir Ashley Eden partly by coaxing and concessions, and partly by vigorous protests, has been successful in preserving the contract. In the first decentralization Resolution of 1871 power was reserved by the Government of India to revise the assignments in case of "some fiscal misfortune, such as heavy loss in the opium revenue, or national disaster, such as war or famine," but no such reservation was made in the Resolution of 1877. It was an out-and-out contract. It provided for a revision of assignments only in the event of "any new legislation intended to increase or reduce any of the assigned revenues." But Sir John Strachey was a man who did not scruple to eat his words. After a few months of the compact of 1877 he issued orders under stress of military expenditure practically to annul the provincial contracts, but Sir Ashley Eden escaped the calamity by giving a benevolence of 20 lakhs to the Government of India. Again, in 1880 he proposed to increase the contributions of the Provincial Government on account of Excise, Stamps, and Law and Justice, because the revenues from these sources had been unexpectedly large, though he had guaranteed to the local Governments all improvement due to careful and economical management. Sir Ashley Eden as a matter of course strongly protested, and a change of Government afforded him the desired relief. We give below some extracts from Sir Ashley's last protest on the subject:

The Government of Bengal was promised all the extra revenue it might raise to assist it in bearing the charge for maintaining and constructing works of provincial utility; a work not alone of utility, but of necessity for the protection of section of the province from famine, is to be constructed; yet it is proposed to annul the promise given and to force the local Government to find funds for this work by withholding them from others only less urgently required. The Lieutenant-Governor is sanguine that the Government of India will not sanction proposals which would amount to a repudiation of its pledges. The very pith and marrow of the decentralization measures of 1877 were that the money which Bengal could raise by improved administration and fresh taxation should, after meeting the charges for interest on Productive Public Works, be spent on a large and liberal scheme of works for the improvement and protection of the province; and it would have a very bad effect if it could be said that, with Opium and other branches of the revenue bringing in unusually large returns, funds required for a great and beneficial work were, by the annulment of the most distinct engagements, appropriated to purposes entirely unconnected with the provinces of Bengal.

If the decentralization scheme is to succeed, and I am to submit that it has succeeded beyond all expectation, it is essential that the fullest confidence should exist between the Imperial and Local Governments. A Local Government will not take the same interest in developing the provincial finances by strict economy and vigorous administration of the large revenue-yielding departments if it feels that its success will not benefit the province, but will be absorbed in the Imperial treasury just as if no agreement had been made.

It was in this bold, vigorous, and manly style Sir Ashley Eden has fought for the financial independence of Bengal, and protected its revenues.

The developement of provincial finance under Sir Ashley Eden's administration has been remarkable. The revenues have increased from Rs. 2,69,11,000 to Rs. 3,68,28,000 during the five years, while the expenditure on all accounts has increased from Rs. 3,08,60,000 to Rs. 4,40,95,000. We have neither time nor space to notice in detail the improvement in each branch of provincial revenue, though the details are both interesting and instructive. It so happens that the period of the provincial contract covers that of Sir Ashley Eden's administration, and the history of the one is necessarily the history of the other as regards material developement. We have already said that the leading feature of the new system of provincial finance was to throw on the provincial fund the interest and charges of the so-called productive works of the province. These were hard legacies. The local Government must meet this liability, and after providing for ordinary public works must find means for large projects without of course raising new taxes. Sir Ashley Eden has proved equal to the occasion, though in the first three years his hands were tied by the Secretary of State's orders restricting public works expenditure.

The success which has attended the working of the decentralization of provincial finance in Bengal reflects the highhest credit on Sir Ashley Eden's administration. Within the five years under review the revenues have increased by one million and the expenditure on public works by 250 per cent. With the exception of the Public Works Cess, which was forced upon Bengal by the Government of India, there has not been a single pice of additional taxation. Thus Sir Ashley Eden has proved a more successful financier than the professional financier who lately ruled the Imperial exchequer. He has also by judicious allotment of funds given facilities to internal communications, which will materially benefit the country. The financial and public works policy of Sir Ashley Eden establishes his claim to the lasting gratitude of the people of Bengal.

Fifthly, Taxation.—There has been no increase of taxation in Bengal under Sir Ashley Eden except the Public Works Cess on which we have already commented. He had introduced a Bill for the imposition of a compulsory irrigation rate, but he was afterwards convinced that it would be arbitrary and unjust, and so he allowed the Bill to drop. It is no ordinary merit in a ruler that when he is convinced of the unsoundness of a measure, he is ready to abandon it. The License tax was not a measure of Sir Ashley Eden, but we know his opinion about it. In his last Resolution on the administration of the License tax he says: "The whole of the proceedings connected with the working of the license tax, even in Calcutta, show how impossible it is to effect a proper assessment and collection of a direct tax like license tax. The proper machinery for the honest and conscientious working of such a tax cannot be secured in this country, and it is for this reason that the Lieutenant-Governor has always deprecated direct taxation where indirect taxation could be substituted." He has been a staunch advocate of indirect taxation, and strongly remonstrated against the repeal of the cotton duties and the reduction of the salt duty.

Sixthly, Material Improvement.—No other Governor of Bengal had ever done so much for the material improvement of the province as Sir Ashley has done. He has been most active in devising roads, railways and canals, and if his resources had not been crippled by the rapacious jaws of Sir John Strachey, he would have done much more. We will give a brief account of what he has accomplished within the last five years. The Northern Bengal line was opened from Poradah to Julpigoree in January 1878; and the extensions from Parbutipore to Rungpore and from Siligoree to Julpigooree were ready for traffic the former in July and the latter in November 1878. The Patna-Gya line and the extension of the Northern Bengal line to Kawnia on the Teesta were opened for traffic in June 1879. In 1880 the Lieutenant-Governor was permitted by the Government of India to begin, as a provincial work the construction of a line from Sonarpore, on the Calcutta and South-Eastern line to Mugra Hat, an important mart in the 24-Pergunnahs district, and a sum of ₹ 2,20,060 was expended upon it from Provincial Funds. This line is being constructed on the broad gauge, and will be extended to Diamond Harbour. The estimates for 1881-82 include a charge of ₹ 7,50,000 for expenditure on this line. Provision has also been made under other public works for the expenditure of ₹ 4,50,000 for preliminary work on a line to connect Parbutipore on the Northern Bengal Railway, with the important town of Dinagepore, and of two lakhs for raising and bridging the road from Mugra Hat to Diamond Harbour to make it available for railway extension. The budget estimate for 1881-82 provides from the funds at the disposal of the Supreme Government ₹ 29,98,500 for expenditure on Railways, chiefly for the extension of the Tirhoot line to Bettiah on the west and Peepra Ghat on the east and ₹ 11,50,000 for expenditure on Canals. The Decentralization Resolution of Government says, "it has been a matter of great regret to Sir Ashley Eden that so little has been done during the past four years to extend railway communication in this province. The financial success of any well designed railway in Bengal is a matter of certainty. The country teems with produce, which only seeks the means of communication with the great highways of commerce. It was once feared that the Gya line would not pay the interest charges on the capital expenditure, and it was with some difficulty that Sir Ashley Eden succeeded in obtaining sanction to the work. Yet in the first complete year during which it was opened the line made a clear profit, and it has already had an important effect on the prosperity of the tract south of the Ganges. The great increase in indirect revenue from the Behar district has been largely the result of the opening of this line and of the Tirhoot line whereby the people have been enabled to reap the advantages of favourable seasons." Again, "Sir Ashley Eden has for some time past been urging that as the State could not find the capital for a sufficiently rapid extension of Railways, it was false economy to refuse to allow private companies

to take up some of the lines under proper security for their future management. He will always welcome any project for the development of the country by the agency of private capitalists where the State is unable to do what is wanted within a reasonable time. In the meantime, however, he trusts that the agency of the State will not be idle, and that it will be possible to provide funds for the construction of some of the lines which have already been approved. A line from Bhugwangola through the districts of Moorshedabad and Nuddea to join the Eastern Bengal Railway; a line through Dacca to Naraingunge and Mymensingh; a line to connect the Tirhoot and Northern Bengal System, and thus encourage emigration from the North-Western Provinces and Behar to Assam; a line from Tirhoot to the Ganges opposite Patna; and a line to Diamond Harbour are projects which hold out promise of excellent results in every respect. Some of these may no doubt be made from Provincial funds; others from capital the interest of which is guaranteed by Provincial Funds; others by private companies." So much for Railways.

With regard to canals the Lieutenant-Governor remarks that "the construction of the Orissa, Midnapore, and Hidgellee Canals was originally undertaken in 1863 by the East Indian Irrigation and Canal Company, with the most extravagant expectations of profit. His Honor, however, hopes to increase the navigation receipts of the Orissa and Hidgellee works by constructing the Coast Canal, which he has projected at a cost of thirty lakhs of rupees. He is also pushing the Sone Canals. the opening of which has given a great impetus to the extension of sugar cultivation, and has caused considerable cane increase in the agricultural wealth of the tracts supplied." Apart from these schemes, the Lieutenant-Governor has undertaken other irrigation and canal works from Provincial Funds. A sum of R 6,28,000 has been spent on a canal to connect the river Gunduck with the principal water-courses of the Sarun district. A still more important work has been the Joojooty Scheme, whereby a constant supply of pure water from the river Damoodah will be poured into old channels in the Burdwan and Hoogly districts, and the permanent improvement in the public health of the Burdwan and Hoogly districts is confidently anticipated. The cost of this scheme will be Rs. 6,91,000. The condition of the Calcutta canal had hitherto been very unsatisfactory. The storm-water loaded with the sewage of the town discharged into it; boats greunded at low water, causing numerous accidents, and hindering traffic; and the channels silted up, entailing very heavy annual expenses in maintenance. These defects will now be remedied. It is not possible to make any useful comparison of the expenditure upon other public works before and after the contract of 1877. The expenditure on works during scarcity of 1874 was abnormal, the provincial balances were exhausted, and the Government of India found it necessary to accept the outlay, and to make the local Government a net grant of five lacks with which to begin the year 1876-77. The expenditure on Ordinary Public Works during that year was Rs 25,59'000 For the current year the allotment is Rs.66,93,000 It includes, besides miscellaneous improvements on buildings, and on the construction, bridging, and metalling of provincial roads, provision for new court-houses at Sealdah, Jessore, Mymensing, Dacca, Ranchee, Gya, Durbhunga, and Motiharee for various sub-divisional buildings and Moonsiffs' Courts, for new Jails at Julpigoree, Bogra, Patna, Gya, Durbhunga, and Motiharee, for a college at Rampore Boalea and a Railway school at Kerseong, and for the completion of the new Secretariat buildings and the new Obstretic Hospital at the Medical College.

Seventhly, Education.—Education received considerable extension during the five years' administration of Sir Ashley Eden. Since 1877, when there were 21,478 schools and 589,351 pupils, the number of schools under inspection has more than doubled, while the number of pupils has increased by nearly 60 per cent. Of the whole number of 928,489 pupils in schools of all classes, 893,941 were boys. The number of males in Bengal is shown by the recent census to be about 34 millions, which would, according to the ordinary estimate of 15 per cent., give about 5,100,000 boys of school-going age, among whom therefore more than one in six is at school. In 1878-79 the Government expenditure on the State colleges were rupees two lakhs and eight thousand, whereas in 1880-81, it amounted to rupees two lakhs and a quarter. During the last five years an additional grant of two lakhs of rupees has been given for primary education. It will be thus seen that Sir Ashley Eden has given encouragement to both high and primary education. Regarding the necessity of high English education for the people of this country Sir Ashley Eden's opinion is well known. To refresh the memory of the reader we give the following extract from his memorable speech at the opening of the Burdwan Maharaja's College:

I am not one of those who believe that the Government can either now, or at any early date, retire from its direct connection with high schools and colleges. Nor do I believe any premature severance of that connexion was the intention of the framers of the despatch of 1854. That despatch assumed in every line the value of high education, and the importance and necessity of spreading it among the better classes of the natives of this country. Not of high education alone, for it recognized as of at least equal importance the extension of education amongst the masses. And I may here claim, on behalf of the Government of Bengal, that it has not neglected its duty in this respect. Under the system of primary education established in 1872, the number of primary schools has increased from about 8,000 in that year to something like 40,000. In 1880 I increased the allotment for primary education by a lakh of rupees, and I am prepared to make a further considerable addition to the grant in the present year. The interests of primary education have therefore not suffered at the hands of the Government of Bengal. The ground being thus cleared, we can turn to the despatch of 1854 and see how it regarded the relations of Government with high education. The despatch directed that "no Government college or school shall be founded for the future in any district in which a sufficient number of institutions exist capable, with assistance from the State, of supplying the local demand for education;" and while it looked forward to a time when any general system of education, entirely provided by Government, should be discontinued, it added that it was far from the wish of Government "to check the spread of education in the slightest degree by the abandonment of a single school to probable decay." Well, it is of course clear that there is now no such thing in Bengal as "a general system of education entirely provided by Government." The number of Government schools and colleges bears but a small proportion (if primary schools be included a minute proportion) to the whole number, and the Government contribution to the total expenditure on education in Bengal is little more than 40 per cent. What has taken place is this. The Government has gradually retired from the direct control of schools, beginning at the lowest class and working upwards; and the vast majority of these, up to and including the middle standard, are now supported by grants-in-aid. Our system of education has, therefore, taught the people to establish for themselves by their own independent efforts the middle schools that they require. Even amongst high schools teaching to the University Entrance standard, 170 have been established by private afforts against 40 that Government maintains. With regard to colleges the case is different. Outside Calcutta Government practically covers the whole field. The time may, no doubt, come when Government can retire to some greater or less extent from its connexion with the colleges; but can we say that the time has now arrived, or is even near at hand? I can confidently state my belief, that this time has not arrived.

Sir Ashley Eden has given special encouragement to female education. He has raised the Bethune School to a College for the benefit of advanced female students. In order to help our young men in earning their livelihood, he has established the Sheebpore Civil Engineering College, in which practical instruction is combined with theoretical knowledge. He has also founded agricultural scholarships with a view to enable students with the required scientific training to proceed to England and study agriculture in the Cirencester College. And lastly he has been the first Lieutenant-Governor, who has taken steps to improve the position and prospects of the subordinate educational officers. We wish he could adopt a larger measure, but the state of the finances did not admit of it. Nevertheless as the Bengali proverb has it, a blind uncle is better than no uncle. He has also appointed two Native Joint Inspectors, and also promoted one of them to the higher grade. To Mahomedan education he has given special encouragement by reducing the fee of the Calcutta Madrassa, and increasing grants for Mahomedan schools.

Eighthly, Oriental learning.—Sir Ashley Eden has given a new encouragement to Sanskrit learning by the establishment of Sanskrit Title Examination. He has also introduced a system of money rewards in support of Sanskrit *toles* and Mahomedan *maktabs*. For the preservation of the antiquities of Budh-Gya he deputed Dr. Rajendralala Mitra to that holy shrine and according to his recommendations has ordered repairs to the great Buddhist temple there. As a crowning act for the encouragement of oriental learning under Sir Ashley Eden's reign we take the full-pay pension granted to the vetern orientalist, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, to enable him to devote his whole time to the cause of oriental researches and learning unfetterred by petty details of an uninteresting educational work. Such a generous recognition of oriental learning in the person of a learned Indian had never before been known under British rule in this country.

Ninthly, Sonthal Rising.—We have mentioned above that Sir Ashley Eden first distinguished himself by suppressing the Sonthal revolt in 1855. When therefore the Sonthals shewed an uneasy feeling last year in connection with the census, he felt no difficulty in dealing with it promptly. A less knowing and determined Governor might have complicated the matter, but he organized his plan so well that he pacified the Southals without any expenditure of blood. He may well be proud of this bloodless victory.

Tenthly, Prison Reform.—Great hue and cry were raised last year about mortality in the Bengal Jails. The fact was quite correct, but it was discovered not by the outside public but by the Lieutenant-Governor himself. It would seem that owing to the low diet scale recommended by the Prison Conference appointed by the Governor of India the diet was reduced and it told upon the health of the prisoners. But this injurious effect was seen in the jails of the other provinces with this difference that there the Government did not proclaim the fact and bestir itself in correcting the evil. The following is a brief statement of the improvements effected in the administration of the Bengal Jails during the administration of Sir Ashley Eden. The water supply of all our jails has received special attention; new wells have been sunk and pumps substituted for the ordinary native methods of raising water. Bathing platforms have been provided in every jail and the prisoners no longer bathe in filthy tanks and round the mouth of wells as they used to do. The improvement in the quality and quantity of clothing allowed to each prisoner has been most marked since the manufacture of jail clothing was made the special industry of two of the Central Jails. Last year every prisoner was provided with a woollen coat. Throughout the year each prisoner is allowed 2 blankets in his bedding. The new system of boiling and washing the clothing has had a marked effect in destroying vermin and keeping the clothing clean. Special rules for the employment of prisoners on extramural labour have been issued. Under these rules prisoners, employed in out-door labour, are allowed 2 hours rest in barracks after the morning meal and during the heat of the day. The greatest benefit is, however, now being derived from what is known as the "Weight Test." Over-crowding, the great cause of mortality in jails, worked on the principle of association, is now absolutely unknown in Bengal. Special designs were sanctioned for Jail barracks by which the prisoners in the main-barracks will at night be raised 14 feet off the ground. This sanitary precaution in a highly malarious province like Bengal is one that will, it is hoped, be followed by the best results. In 1878 the Government sanctioned the building of 8 entirely new jails on the standard plan and extensive alterations and improvements in 7 others. An extra morning meal is now given. The punishment of whipping which was due to the rules of Sir George Campbell has been considerably reduced.

Eleventhly, Tours.—Sir Ashley Eden justly holds that the rulers of the country ought to see it with his own eyes, mix with the people, and use both his eyes and ears in knowing their condition and understanding their grievances. So he made it a point to make tours every year through different parts of the territories under his control, and also insisted upon the Divisional Commissioners, District Magistrates and Sub-Divisional Officers making tours through their respective *elakas*. These tours have certainly had some good effects, and if properly done they cannot but be very useful.

Twelfthly, Official Supervision.—The tours have facilitated official supervision. Since Sir Ashley Eden has assumed the reins of Government, our district officers we may say have been awakened to a sense of duty. They know well that they are under a master, who has eyes to see, eare to hear, and a tongue to speak, and they are therefore careful in what they do. We know wigging has been freely administered to both European and Native officers under Sir Ashley Eden's rule, perhaps more to the former than to the latter. Instances have come to our knowledge of officers being denied promotion for perfunctory discharge of duty, infirmity of temper, and the like, and some of them are still vegetating, while a few have resigned the service altogether. These cases have, however, not been known to the public, for it will not do for Government to publish the shame of its own officers, but if any one will enquire into the matter in any district, he will know the truth The public have been somewhat prejudiced by the decisions of the Lieutenant Governor in the cases of Mr. Mosley and Mr. Sharp, but these cases are not typical. The discipline maintained by Sir Ashley Eden has been really most wholesome.

Thirteenthly. The employment of the Native agency, in the higher offices, has been certainly on a more extended scale under Sir Ashley Eden than under any other Lieutenant-Governor. He has restored the Calcutta Police Magistracy to the Natives, opened to natives for the first time the Coronership of Calcutta, appointed a Native to be Government translator, given the Inspectorship of Assurances hitherto held by a Civilian to a Native, appointed a Native to be District Judge, recommended an Uncovenanted Judge to be a Judge of the High Court, insisted upon the appointment of natives as District Engineers under Road Cess Committees, created two Joint-Inspectorships of Schools for Natives, and appointed a native to Act as Chemical Examiner to Government. He has increased the number of Deputy Magistrates, Sub-Deputies, Munsiffs and Subordinate Judges, increased the pay of the ministerial service, and improved the position of hospital assistants. The graduates of the University have received much greater encouragement under Sir Ashley Eden's rule than under that of any of his predecessors. And so have the Mahomedans. Of course Sir Ashley has also befriended some scions of old but decaying families, but this is an amiable weakness in him. He had himself conferred the Assistant Secretaryship to the Government of Bengal upon a native, and it is to be regretted that he has himself taken it away.

Fourteenthly, Local Self-Government.—Notwithstanding the motives and sympathies with which Sir Ashley Eden is credited as regards local self-government he has responded to the Resolution of the Government of India on the extension of local self-government in a far more liberal spirit than any other Local Government. He has already set free certain provincial funds for application by Municipal Committees, and as regards the constitution of the district boards he has given his opinion that the members should be working and not merely ornamental men.

Fifteenthly, Special Measures for Behar.—Last December Behar came forward to acknowledge its special obligations to Sir Ashley Eden. It has done the same at the present time. The native language of the majority of the people of Behar has been declared the language of its courts, their claim to the public service in their own province has been recognized, the relations between the indigo planters and ryots have been improved, the condition of the peasantry has been ameliorated, and the drainage and other communications of several districts considerably improved. For these and other reasons Behar seems to be particularly thankful to Sir Ashley Eden, who at the close of last year was greeted with ovations wherever he went.

Sixteenthly, Sympathy with the People.—From the commencement of his career Sir Ashley Eden has taken delight in mixing with the people and living among them as one of them. *Char durzu khola* as Malcolm used to say was his motto. He was accessible to all, and wherever he went, he made friends of those with whom he came into contact. This amiable trait in his character did not change with the change in his position. He has always been active in promoting a good understanding between the natives and Europeans of the higher class. He took a leading part in establishing the Union Club in preference to "Mallesonian milk and water" at the Dalhousie Institute. In this respect he has set an example, which we hope will not be lost upon the ruling class.

We could have multiplied these instances, but we have not space. The facts we have given are enough to stamp the character of the administration of Sir Ashley Eden. Of course there have been blunders and defects, but where there have been blunders, there have been compensating merits. For instance notwithstanding his denunciation of the Vernacular Press, no other Indian Ruler has paid more attention to the Native Press than Sir Ashley Eden, for every fact of importance noted by the press has been enquired into by him. His fulminations against the elective Municipality of Calcutta had evidently no serious intent, for though he could have changed the municipal constitution, if he wished it, he twice refused to meddle with it. The introduction of the outstill system is one of those measures, which we have been foremost in condemning, but we must do him the justice to say that he is doing his best to correct its abuses. Similarly his views on medical charitable relief, evidently under the inspiration of his departmental subordinate, are both unsound and illiberal, but he has announced a step in advance, he will make over the charitable dispensaries to District Boards.

We have given the good and bad points in Sir Ashley Eden's career. We have endeavoured to exaggerate naught or set down aught in malice. We have tried to hold the balance with an even hand. We challenge a critical examination of the facts we have given, and we do not hesitate to say that the good points far outweigh the bad. Take] Sir Ashley Eden's administration as a whole, and we make bold to say that no impartial man will deny that it has been beneficial to the country, and that the people ought to feel deeply grateful to him.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

OUR REVIEW of the career of Sir Ashley Eden has run to such a length that we are obliged to keep back other matter. We give a supplement for the last annual report of the British Indian Association. It will be seen that Maharaja Narendra Krishna has been elected President of the Association for the current year.

IT WILL BE seen from an advertisement in another column that the Garden Party at Belvedere fixed for the afternoon of the 22nd instant is altered into an Evening Party for the 20th idem (9 to 12 P. M.) We are requested to mention that those, who have received invitations to the Garden Party, will consider themselves invited to the Evening Party.

WE ARE requested to announce that the Eden Hospital for Women and Children will be formally opened by Sir Ashley Eden on Wednesday next at 6 P. M. We publish in another column the list of subscribers. The subscriptions are to due to the exertions of Dr. Harvey.

AT LAST SATURDAY'S sitting of the Bengal Legislative Council Sir Ashley Eden took leave of it in a few graceful words. He justly said that he did not undertake legislation for the mere sake of legislation. Indeed, in both the Bengal Council and in the Upper Council it has always been his effort to discountenance over-legislation.

WE PUBLISH in another column a Requisition inviting a meeting at the Town Hall to be held on Friday next, the 21st instant, at 5 P. M., for the purpose of voting an address and memorial to Sir Ashley Eden in recognition of his successful administration as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The requisition, it will be observed, has been signed by representatives of all classes of the community, Europeans, Hindus, Mahomedans, Jews, Armenians, and Parsis. Leading men of all these classes have come forward except the Civil Service and the officials generally, who are too much identified with the administration of Sir Ashley Eden to take a part in its praise. We hope the meeting will be well attended.

WE HEAR that the Bengal Government has recommended a revision of the salaries of the higher grades of the Subordinate Executive Service. It is proposed to assimilate the maximum pay of the Subordinate Executive Service with that of the Subordinate Judicial Service.

AS WE announced last week, Mr. Henry, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor has been appointed officiating Collector and Magistrate of Chumparun. Mr. Henry entered Belvedere as Private Secretary to Sir Steuart Bayley, and he was retained by Sir Ashley Eden when the latter returned from the Army Commission. He is a model Private Secretary. Courteous and considerate, he is liked by all who have had occasion to visit Belvedere.

NO OTHER Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal had ever been honored with so many farewell entertainments than Sir Ashley Eden. The round of entertainments began last week. Last Thursday Babu Koonjolall Banerjea gave an Evening Party in his honour, which was attended by the *elite* of the European and Native communities. A farewell ceremony in right Hindu style was designed by Babu Koonjolal by garlanding the Lieutenant-Governor and offering him certain emblems of Brahmanical benediction. On Saturday last Babu Joykisson Mookerjea gave an Evening Party at the Utturpara Library which went off very pleasantly. The Utturpara Municipality presented an address to the Lieutenant-Governor, to which His Honor replied in suitable terms. This evening Babu Juggadanund Mookerjea gives an Evening Party, on Tuesday, the European Community give a public banquet, on Wednesday the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotindromohun Tagore gives an evening entertainment, on Thursday the Civil Service gives a farewell dinner, on Friday the Town Hall Meeting takes place and the Maharaja of Hutwa gives a dinner.

WE THANK the Behar Landholders' Association for sending us a telegraphic report of their annual meeting held on Saturday last; we regret we cannot publish the telegram *in extenso* for want of space, but will give its substance. The Maharaja of Durbhangha, President, was in the chair and the following Resolutions were passed. By the first Resolution the meeting expressed regret at the death of the Maharaja of Doomraon and voted a life-size portrait of the lamented deceased *in memoriam*. By the second Resolution the meeting adopted a farewell address to Sir Ashley Eden on behalf of Behar, which will be presented by a deputation. By the third Resolution the meeting determined to apply to Government for information as to the nature of the present Rent Bill. The fourth Resolution sanctioned the erection of a house for the Association at a cost not exceeding Rs. 40,000. By the fifth Resolution the meeting agreed to a representation to the Education Commission on the subject of the educational requirements of Behar. Thanks were then voted to the Chair and the meeting separated.

We have received a copy of the Farewell Address of the Behar Landholders' Association to the Lieutenant-Governor, but we are sorry we cannot make room for it at this eleventh hour.

Just as we were going to press, we have received intimation that a demonstration has been held in Cuttack,

LOCAL.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from the Supplement.)

The accounts were also laid on the table.

Babu Joggodishnath Roy moved that the report be received and adopted and that the accounts be passed.

Babu Nundalal Mullick seconded the motion.

The President, in putting the resolution to the vote, said :—It was not without great reluctance that about this time last year I accepted the office of President of your Association. Appreciating highly the honor you conferred on me, I felt that I was not competent to discharge the trust with the same ability and influence which my illustrious predecessors had done. Having sat long at the feet of the earlier members to learn the art of political association I knew full well their worth, and could not even in moments of the wildest aspirations think of approaching the high merits of a Radhakant, a Ramanath, or a Prosunno Kumar. I was aware, however, as I told you at the last anniversary, that your Association had outgrown its infancy ; it was in the possession of organs most fully developed ; it was in the hey-day of vigorous manhood ; and needed no longer the kind attentions of a dry nurse. You were well able to work, and did work, for yourselves with consummate ability, and was fairly above the necessity of an inspiring, leading and guiding spirit. You required only what all public bodies do require, a moderator at your meetings, and not a mentor ; and in so humble a position I did not think my shortcomings would be too glaring. I relied too on the cordial co-operation of your distinguished Committee, and of your able Secretary. A year has since elapsed ; the period of my office has come to a close and it is a source of great satisfaction to me to know that I retire without having injured your interests in any way. The report just read shows that during the past 12 months your Committee worked with the same zeal, the same prudence, the same wisdom the same untiring energy, which had before marked their conduct. No subject of any importance to the well-being of the native community has escaped their notice. They met regularly every week, debated long and carefully every Government measure bearing on the people, and in every instance took action in the way which, you will admit, was perfectly right and proper. Altogether some forty different subjects engaged the attention of your Committee, and some of them were of grave importance. Take for instance the Private Trust Bill, which under the plea of regulating private trusts, laid down rules which virtually set aside all trusts for future generations. The main object of a private trust is to keep away property from the immediate control of beneficiaries, but the new law provides that the terms of trusts may be modified with the consent of the beneficiaries, *i. e.* the trustees and the beneficiaries should be the absolute masters of property irrespective of all conditions of trust ; in other words trust deeds in such cases must be mere waste paper. The power given to trustees to nominate their own successors also opened a wide door for mischief. Turning next to the Emigration Bill I must admit that it concerned only the poorest class of the community, but it was just the class which claimed the most earnest attention of your Committee. Whatever the detractors of the Association may say to the contrary in order to weaken its well-earned influence, the Association has always been true to its profession of representing all classes of the community, and the interest of those who cannot help themselves, the ryots and the labouring classes, have always been consulted with the greatest ease,—they have never been so well represented as by the Association. Legislation was originally called for on the subject on account of grievous mismanagement on the part of planters, but the tendency of late has been all on the other way. The Bill under notice was got up mainly in the interest of the planter, under the inspiration of some influential persons in England interested in tea, and contained many provisions highly injurious to emigrants. The two most obnoxious features were the salability of labourers as chattels along with tea estates, and the power of arresting deserters without a warrant. No justification was attempted of the sale clause by the legislature, but a section of the English Merchant shipping Act was quoted to show that your Committee were all wrong in saying that the arrest without warrant of the kind proposed was unprecedented in civilized legislation. Of course arrest without warrant was not unprecedented ; every guardian had the power of arresting without a warrant a run away minor and every passer by a murderer or a thief in the street, but whereas the section quoted required the arrest of a sailor to be reported to the nearest Magistrate within 24 hours, the alleged cooly deserter may be under the law carried from one end of India to the other, from Delhi to Debrughur, and kept on travelling for six months without giving him an opportunity to plead his own cause before a Magistrate, and were he after six months or more to prove his innocence the oppressor was to be let off with a fine not exceeding fifty rupees. This leniency to law-breakers was the most offensive feature of the law. The law was defended most strenuously on the ground of the coolies being better lodged, better fed, better clothed, and altogether better kept than in their own homes. This, however, proved too much. The argument pressed home would justify imprisonment for life. A prisoner at the Alipur Jail is better housed, better fed, better clothed, and better tended, than millions of the lower orders of the community. The latter have scarce a comfort to think of, their huts are the most miserable possible, huts which protect them neither from the sun nor from rain ; their clothing is a misnomer ; their fare the hardest that ever fell to the lot of the labourer, the most despicable in equality ; and insufficient in quantity ; their children melt away from starvation ; and their family die like rotten sheep from want of medical aid ; and yet how many of the millions would exchange their lot for a home in an Indian Jail? No, not one in a hundred and that because they have a will —a feeling which rebel against imprisonment, and the denial of the common rights of man.

The Hindu Wills Act opened the old question of gift *intervivos*. A false interpretation of a logical conceit in the Dayabhaga opened this question, and the lords of Her Majestys Privy Council were misled by it, and an attempt was made by the legislature to legalise it ; but on the opposition of Maharaja Jotindra Mohun Tagore the attempt was abandoned.

The Cess Bill discussions call for no remark at this stage. Your Committee have paid every attention to them, and will watch them with unfailing care. The appointment of a missionary gentleman as a teacher in a Government school formed the subject of one of your representations to Government; but the Government of Bengal has not deigned to acknowledge your memorial. The subject of Governmet aid to charitable dispensaries also engaged the attention of your Commitee for a time. It was in 1864 that the theory was enunciated that under the principles of political economy it formed no part of Government duty to save people from famine, and a million of people were offered as a holocaust to this Moloch of political economy. The doctrine was abandoned soon after, and a very different principle prevailed during the famine of 1873. It was reserved, however, for the medical advisers of the Bengal Government to revive it in connexion with charitable dispensaries in 1881, and laying down the doctrine that it was beyond the recognised province of Government to provide medical aid to the poor. Yes, men may die by hundreds of thousands of epidemics of cholera and plague originating from Government neglect of sanitary rules, and it was not the duty of Government to save them! The Government had accepted houses, lands, endowments, and subscriptions from the public to keep up charitable dispensaries; but the medical authorities repudiated the responsibility which the acceptance implied ; and proposed the withdrawal of Government from the field. No, I beg their pardon, they did not recommend absolute withdrawal ; they recommended it only with reference to the poor miserable wretches of the Mofussil, but admitted the propriety of keeping up large hospitals in presidency towns which provided fat superintendentships for well-paid pluralists. The reply of Government to your representation does not argue the politico-economic doctrine, but says the subject will be taken up by the local boards about to be appointed. The other subjects noticed in the report call for no remark. The report closes with the calender year, but during the last three months two subjects turned up which call for note. One of them was the Criminal Procedure Bill, in which the old complaint of the people that in the eye of the law, the white man was held to be different and of greater importance than the black man, and safeguards were provided for the former particularly as regards the *habias corpus* sections, which were denied the latter. Your Committee, as usual, protested against them, but to no avail.

The second was the Education Commission ; but with reference to it your Committee have not had as yet anything to do. It is one, however, that should engage your most earnest attention, as it concerns your very existence as an intellectual nation. For the head of the Commission I have the most unbounded respect. His profound erudition, his vast experience, his generous sympathy render him the fittest man for the leadership of the Commission ; but his surroundings are not good, and the action of the Commission angur no good to the people. The Commission has arisen from an interested misrepresentation by influential persons in England of the 62 para of the famous Education Despatch of Sir Charles Wood. In that para a hope is expressed that a time would come when the Government would be able to retire from active participation in the work of high education. It was a mere flourish a forecast of fancy of what may be possible in the distant future and not laying down a line of policy, for immediate action. Sir Charles Wood knew well that many centuries of national Government had not sufficed to enable the State from retiring from high education in Great Britain and Ireland, and that State aid for universities there amounted to four times as much as in Bengal, while the population of Bengal is twice as numerous as in Great Britain, and he could not possibly have anticipated to effect in India amidst subject nations in twenty five years what had not been effected in four centuries or more among a free people. His language in the despatch can be reasonably explained in the sense in which I take it. But the language of the despatch apart, the question to be asked is—is it the duty of a civilized Government to provide for the education of the people ? In theory that is the duty of Government which the people cannot do themselves. Justice, police, protection from foreign enemies, post, public roads, currency and the like, are the duties of Government, because private exertions cannot suffice for them. Education in the same way is a public duty, and to deny it is to repudiate one of the most important duties of Government. Government admits this, but say those who are opposed to high education that the duty is limited to the masses who are unable to help themselves, but do not apply to the well-to-do who want high education. This amounts to the same thing as saying that the police should protect the poor only, and not the rich who can protect themselves ; that the police should apprehend the sneaking rogue that purloins a lota from a beggar, but let alone the burglar who breaks into the treasury of a Maharaja. Logically there is no difference between the two cases. Moreover, I look upon the high schools as nurseries for the supply of competent officers for the service of Government. Government wants competent Munsiffs, competent teachers, competent Deputy Magistrates, Deputy Collectors, Deputy Surveyors and head clerks, and keeps up the schools for their own use. When well-educated Civil Servants were wanted, Government paid five lacs for the Haleburey College. For thirty engineers a year, it pays three lacs of rupees every year for the Cooper's Hill College ; and are two lacs and a quarter too large a sum to pay for two to three hundred officers of the different grades, I have named ? If not, the charge is a legitimate one and should not be withheld. It might be said that if the well-to-do would take care of themselves the Government would find the means for extending popular education. This is, however, not practicable. The people are not in a position to take care of high education. They are a subject race, without any political aspiration, they are divided by difference of nationality, religion, sects and mutual jealousy. They cannot combine to prop up national schools. A witness the other day said before the Commission let Bengali be the language of education for the lower orders of the Mahomedans, but the said Bengali should be bastardized by a liberal infusion of Arabic and Persian and the teachers should be Mahomedans. Can there be any union for the maintenance of national college where such feelings prevail ? Sectarian differences have led to the maintenance of separate colleges for the Protestants and Roman Catholics in Ireland, and we can hope for nothing better in India. The Government resolution refers only to competent natives but the Commission in their question have generalised the idea, and adverting to these I say the only persons who can take up the colleges when the Government

drops them are the missionaries, and the question therefore is should the Government maintain non sectarian colleges at a high cost, or for the sake of economy make them over to Christian missionaries who work with the avowed object "of killing the religion, of the people through the brain"? Would it be the proper duty to circumvent the destruction of the people's faith by making over the colleges to the missionaries? The plea of economy is of no avail in such a case. Would such a plea be tolerated for a moment in England, if the proposition were that education there be made over to the Jesuit priests lately expelled from France and other places. It is morally certain that the jesuits can supply very competent teachers at one-fourth the cost of Protestant teachers. There are other serious questions in connexion with the subject; but I cannot take them up now. I hope and trust your Committee will watch the proceedings of the Commission with care, and avail themselves of the earliest opportunity to bring to its notice the views, wants, and wishes of the people.

From the summary I have given it is undeniable and I must admit with regret that the services so zealously and indefatigably rendered by your Committee did not bear all the fruit that you could wish. But that was unavoidable. You are sadly overweighted in the race of life, and you must be prepared to see even your best efforts not unoften blown out by the breath of official impatience of criticism. No Government was more virtuously inspired, more honestly intent to rule fairly and justly, than the British Indian Government under which you have the previlege to live; and the organization of that Government is more perfect than what India ever had. But it is still a bureaucracy; it may be tempered by the best of feelings; it may be governed by the most advanced principles of liberality, but still it is a bureacracy. Business is done in departments each of which is governed by a chief who is the most perfect master of all that concerns his department, and the department of legislation with which you are most concerned, was most noted of late for its impatience of criticism and of public opinion. In the overflowing fulness of its wisdom it thought that it did not exist for the people, but that the people existed as a *corpus vilus* for it to experiment upon; and this could not but lead to unholesome legislation under the best circumstances. The tendency in bureaucracy is to attach higher importance to the comfort and convenience of executive officers than to the right, liberty, safety and wellbeing of the public at large. No one can study the course of legislation in India during the last five years without being painfully aware of it. There is moreover a sad want of sympathy, and I believe that no legislation can be good which does not consult the feeling of the people, their habits, manners, customs and mode of thinking; and the bureaucracy would cease to be a bureaucracy which evinced a solicitude for the feeling of the people. Doctrinairie principles of abstract justice may be all right; but man is not made up only of brains; there is in him a heart as well as a head; and no statesman can do his duty satisfactorily who will not recognize this grand truth, and act accordingly.

A new element of mischief has lately arisen to mar the liberal intentions of our rulers. It is what is called 'home influence.' I apprehended it when the charter question was on the tapis in 1852-53, and gave expression to my apprehension at more than one of your meetings. That apprehension has since been painfully realised. Your rulers are utterly powerless against it. Some of your rulers glory in it, as did a member of Council when he said "above all I am an Englishman, and the interest of Englishman must ever be foremost in my mind." Others more conscientious, more anxious to be just and fair to the people, find it to be a grave difficulty in their way; but it is an incubus which they cannot shake off, and must therefore submit to its behests. The people must go to the wall if their interests are in any wise opposed to that of the said influence. But even this influence, mighty as it is, is but a feather against a tax of lead when it is shaped and moulded and put into action by the exigencies of party Government. It is then simply irresistible; and of late you all know India had been made the shuttle-cock of party tournament. For it, you are nothing better than cork and feathers, created to serve as the implement of play. You are but the foot balls for the ins and outs who hunger for the loaves and fishes of office. What then with a bureaucracy, with many unsympathetic rulers, with home influence and party wants, your position is by no means favourable to any marked success on your work. You have to run against the current, to rise uphill, to carry against all powerful private interests you should therefore be prepared for many reverses. Your motives will be misinterpreted, and your action denounced. The whole armoury of banter, ridicule, scorn and contumely will be hurled against you in season and out of season. But you must be prepared for them. You have a sacred duty to perform; your represent the interests of two hundred millions of human beings. However otherwise divided the people of India may be by deversities of castes, religion, language, and nationality, their political interest is the same—whatever is good for any one of the nations is good for all, and whatever is injurious is equally harmful to one and all; and you constitute their mouthpiece. If you will discharge your duties honestly, faithfully and unflinchingly, you are sure sooner or later to attain your object. You have besides a tribunal to go to which is the best on earth; it is the heart of the great English nation. However clouded at times by false and sinister representations, it is sound to the core, and no prayer for justice will remain unlistened by it. Be then of good cheer; mind not your reverses; laugh to scorn the taunts and jilees of your enemies; bear in mind the sanctity of your cause; and apply yourselves steadily to your self-imposed duty, without swerving to the left or the right. Above all mind that you do not yield to senister motives. Your character is the keenest weapon yon have; beware that it is not blunted by the rust, of self interest, or rather of short-sightedness, for interested we all are; we all try to better ourselves; only some do it on a broad liberal principle, whereas others do it on a narrow basis—people who in the language of Bacon would set form to a village to potch an egg for their breakfast. If I can attain my object by saying yea to a man in power, what care I if the measure to which I give my assent be injurious to my neighbours, is a feeling which has always, exercised an overpowering influence in human affairs, and it is hard to put it down. Party feeling, cliquism envy and jealosy are likewise powerful factors in human affairs. Suppress them altogether you cannot, but believe me that your advancement as a nation; will always bear a direct ratio to the extent with which you can overcome them; and earnestly do I pray that the united example of those who have brought up this Association to its present position may long continue to inspire your action.

To be Continued.

Advertisements.

Notice.

The Lieutenant-Governor's garden party fixed for the 22nd instant, has been changed into an evening party, from 9 to 12 P.M. on the 20th instant.

VERNON A. SCHALCH, Capt.,
A. D. C.

NOTICE.

Undersigned wishes to exchange his place with one of similar position in N. W. P. Travelling allowance will be paid by

FUTTEH CHAND MHATTA,
Accountant 4th Grade,
Durbhanga, Tirhoot State Railway.
4th April 1882.

JUST PUBLISHED.

INDO-ARYANS.

Contributions towards the Elucidation of their Ancient and Medæval History.

BY RAJENDRALALA MITRA LL.D., C.I.E.,

In two Volumes. Vol. I, pp. 472. Vol. II, pp. 504. Bound in blue cloth, embossed. Price Rs. 16.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

Sealed Tenders are invited and will be received up to 3 P.M. of the 24th instant, for the supply of 40,000 Rg. ft. straight, Kirb and Channel stones delivered at the Nimtollah or Bag Bazar Depot.

The stones are to be 12 inches broad by 4 inches thick, and each not less than 3 feet in length, of the best quality Mirzapore, as per specification to be seen at the Office.

Tenders may be submitted for the whole or in part not less than 20,000 Rg. ft. In either case they must be accompanied by earnest deposit of Rs. 1,000, one thousand only.

The party or parties whose tenders are accepted will be required to sign a deed of Contract duly stamped and registered at their expense within four weeks of the acceptance of tender. In case of failure the earnest deposit to be forfeited without further notice.

No further security will be required beyond the earnest money, which will be retained for the due fulfilment of the Contract.

The Commissioners do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

Any further information may be had on application

RAJCHUNDER GHOSE,
Superintendent of Stores.

NOTICE.

We, the undersigned, hereby invite a meeting of the friends and admirers of the Hon'ble Sir Ashley Eden to be held at the Town Hall on Friday, the 21st instant, at 5 P.M., for the purpose of voting him an address and a memorial to mark their appreciation of his successful administration as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

Calcutta, the 14th April 1882.

Rajendralala Mitra.	John Hay.
Narendra Krishna.	Henry F. Brown.
Jotendra Mohun Tagore.	U. V. Alexander.
Komul Krishna.	J. W. O'Keefe,
Nripendra Narayan Bhup of Kuch Behar.	W. J. M. McCaw.
	Ed. Hobson.
Harendra Krishna.	W. R. McKay.
Sourendra Mohun Tagore.	O. C. Klopp.
Rajendra Mullick.	G. G. Riso.
Rajendra Naryan Deo.	John Flemington.
Suttyanand Ghosal.	John Horne.
Poorno Chunder Sing.	P. Goethals, S. J. *Arch. Vic Apostolic.*
Indra Chunder Sing.	
Cally Kissen Tagore.	E. Lafont, S. J.
Judoo Laul Mullick.	A. DeBie, S. J.
Doorga Churn Law.	Alexander A. Apcar.
Surrut Chunder Sing.	E. D. J. Apcar.
Obhoy Churn Goho.	F. J. Fergusson.
Joykissen Mookerjee.	E. T. Trevelyan.
Peary Mohun Mookerjee.	Manickjee Rustomjee.
Dabender Mullick.	Elias J. Gubboy.
Bejoykissen Mookerjee.	S. K. Acharya.
Shama Churn Law.	Md. Ruheemoodeen.
Sagore Dutt.	Jahan Kedar Mirza.
Nundo Laul Mullick.	Mohamed Wahid Ali.
Kaliprassana Ghosh.	Mohamed Nussurooddeen Hyder.
Loke Nauth Mullick.	
Tara Churn Goho.	Abdool Luteef.
Surendra Nath Pal Chowdhary.	Daleelooddin.
	Ahmed.
Coonjo Behary Mullick.	A. F. H. Abdur Rohman.
Charoo Chunder Mullick.	Syed Ameer Hossein.
Damoodur Dass Burmon.	Ameer Ali.
C. M. Chatterjee.	Mahomed Ferokh Shah.
Debendra Naryan Roy.	Mahomed Yusoff.
Nuffer Chunder Pal Chowdhary.	A. G. Apcar.
	H. M. Rustumjee.
Dowlut Chunder Roy.	Geo. Turnbull.
Shorat Chunder Roy Chowdhary.	H. Bell.
	T. A. Apcar.
Nunda Laul Bose.	Robinson Souttar.
Sreesh Chunder Bose.	Anderson Souttar.
Baikuntha Natha Bosu.	C. M. Rustomjee.
Gobind Chunder Dutt.	C. J. Wilkinson.
Hurry Mohun Bose.	J. E. D. Ezra.
Juggodanund Mookerjea.	R. Lycester Upton.
Grish Chunder Dass.	S. G. Sale.
Baney M. Sen.	Gilbert S. Henderson.
Romanath Law.	W. Pigott.
Koonjo Lal Banerjee.	H. B. Harrison.
Mahendra Lal Sircar.	P. O'Kinealy,
Kanney Lal Dey.	Geo. N. Clarke.
Joggodish Nath Roy.	G. Apcar.
Isser Chunder Mitter.	Henry A. Adkins.
Sreenauth Chunder.	D. J. Zemin, *Mas. Cal. Trades' Association.*
Kali Mohun Dass.	
Hem Chunder Kerr.	Henry Pratt, *Senior Warden.*
Gopaul Chunder Mookerji	
Raja Harbullub Narain Sing Bahadoor.	A. H. Wallis, *Junior Warden.*
	Geo. Irving.
Kristo Das Pal.	F. W. Spink.
Peary Chand Mittra.	A. Cumming.
R. Mittra.	L. Richards.
A. B. Inglis.	E. A. Dukes.
G. H. Morrison.	A. E. Keel.
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T. D. Ralli.	J. Kimber.
Robert Miller.	G. Wince.
H. N. Gladstone.	J. G. Womack.
J. C. Roden.	R. Barton West.
W. Alexander	F. E. Linsell.
J. J. J. Keswick.	John Mackintosh.
James Henderson.	G. W. Goddard.
W. W. Patrie.	E. Ball.
C. J. Sharpe.	Francis W. Harper.
R. A. Turnbull.	James Murray.
W. S. Cresswell.	R. Remfry.
N. M. Davidson.	R. D. Grey.
Paul Teske.	W. J. Stephen.
G. Marcketti	J. Baly.
E. E. Petrocochino.	C. H. Reily.
A. J. Convella.	R. Allen.
Rob. Williamson.	J. G. Apcar.
C. Clemm.	James A. O. Hume.
Arthur T. R. Forbes.	J. O'B. Saunders.
D. Rob. Petrie.	
A. P. Ralli.	

OPENING OF THE EDEN HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The new Eden Hospital will be opened by the Hon'ble Sir Ashley Eden, on Wednesday, the 19th instant, at 6 P. M. The public are invited to attend.

The following subscription have been received up to date, and a balance of about Rs. 7,000 is still required. Subscriptions may be sent to the Officiating Obstetric Physician, Medical College Hospital, or lodged in the Bank of Bengal to credit of the Eden Hospital, Fund.

Her Excellency Lady Ripon ...	Rs.	500 0 0
The Maharani Surnomoye ...	...	2,000 0 0
The Maharajah of Kuch Behar ...		1,000 0 0
The Maharani of Kuch Behar ...		1,000 0 0
H. H. Begum of Bhupal, G.C.S.I. ...		1,000 0 0
The Nawab Consort of Bhupal ...		500 0 0
H. H. The Nawab of Bhawalpur, G.C.S.I.		600 0 0
The Maharajah of Bardwan ...		500 0 0
H. H. The Maharajah of Jaipur ...		500 0 0
Maharajah Jotendro Mohun Tagore ...		500 0 0
Messrs. Ralli Brothers		500 0 0
E. J. D. Ezra, Esq.		500 0 0
Messrs. F. W. Heilgers and Co. ...		500 0 0
Messrs. Gisborne and Co.		500 0 0
Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co. ...		500 0 0
Dr. Harvey		500 0 0
The Maharajah of Darbhanga ...		300 0 0
Messrs. David Sassoon and Co. ...		250 0 0
„ George Henderson and Co. ...		250 0 0
„ A. B. McIntosh and Co. ...		250 0 0
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„ Ernsthausen and Oesterley ...		250 0 0
„ Burn and Co.		250 0 0
Babu Kali Kiseen Tagore		200 0 0
Messrs. Anderson Wright and Co. ...		200 0 0
F. J. Crooke, Esq.		200 0 0
Messrs. Elias S. Gubboy & Co. ...		200 0 0
„ W. Moran & Co.		200 0 0
„ J. Thomas & Co		200 0 0
H. P. Mulock, Esq. Shahjahanpur ...		200 0 0
Herr Mack		150 0 0
Messrs. Begg Dunlop & Co.		100 0 0
W. E. Crum, Esq.		100 0 0
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W. H. Cheetham, Esq.		100 0 0
Captain Taylor		100 0 0
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A. H. K. ? ...		50 0 0
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„ Andrew Yule & Co. ...		50 0 0
Hon'ble G. C. Paul, C.I.E. ...		50 0 0
Col. Tennant, R. E. ...		50 0 0
Mrs. W. Chichele Plowden ...		50 0 0
C. Harryngton, Esq. ...		50 0 0
Babu Khetter Chander Banerji ...		50 0 0
Mr. Mr. Girling ...		50 0 0
J. E, Assam, per Editor of *Englishman*		32 0 0
Maharajah Kumar Harendro Kishore Sing		25 0 0
Mr. D. Cruickshank ...		25 0 0
S. P. M. ...		20 0 0
N. J. a Vletta, Esq. ...		20 0 0
Mr. Spencer, Mount Abu ...		20 0 0
J. A. ...		16 0 0
X. Y. Z. ...		16 0 0
Col. Brownlow, R. E. ...		10 0 0
M. G. ...		5 0 0
Proceeds of performance "Fra Diavolo"		341 7 6
„ „ "Our Boys" ...		3,937 2 0
„ Amateur Concert ...		1,048 8 0
Half proceeds of "Two Roses" ...		680 0 0
Total Rs. ...		23,046 1 6

TO LET OR FOR SALE.

"The Cottage" No. 21, Chassadhobapara Para Road, Cossipore,—A garden and House measuring about 7 biggahs, the dwelling house containing 6 spacious rooms, a privy, with three fishing tanks and all sorts of fruit trees. Apply to Russicklal Sircar, *via* Baranagore P. O.—"*Title-deeds unexceptionable.*"

To night: To night: To night.

NATIONAL THEATRE.

Reading of Shakespeare.
Merchant of Venice by Farquhar.
Grand night for Students.

Prices of Admission.

Dress circle, 1 Re. Stalls, 8 ans. Back Seats, 4 ans.

A Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday, the 20th of April, 1882, at 4 P.M.

BUSINESS TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD.

1.—Report by Drs. Coates and Harvey, regarding Jora Bagan Bustee.

The Chairman to move that a formal vote be passed under Section 283A of Act No. 6 of 1881, for the acquisition of the Bustee, and a Committee appointed to supervise its improvements, also that the sanction of the Lieutenant-Governor be asked, under section 334, to a loan of Rs. 400,000 for that purpose.

2.—To consider a preliminary report by the Special Conservancy Committee, recommending by a majority the transfer of the Nuisance Department to the Health Officer.

3.—To confirm the proceedings of the Town Council at meetings held on the 18th and 25th February and 11th, 18th and 25th March.

4.—To confirm the proceedings of the Tramway Committee at meetings held on the 23rd and 27th February and 16th March.

5.—Proceedings of the Water Supply Extension Committee at a meeting held on the 18th March.

6.—Vital Statistics for the months of January and February.

7. The Chairman to move that Jute Licenses be granted for the Ware-houses at No. 80, Durmahattah and 90, Sobha Bazar Street.

8. Proceedings of the Assessment Committee at a meeting held on the 29th March.

By order,
ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secy. to the Corporation.

IN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT-JUDGE, GHAZIPUR.

Caution in the matter of an application for a letter of administration from Srimoti Satkari Dosi and Srimoti Kamini Dosi, widow and daughter-in-law of one Koylashchunder Mitter, deceased, late a Government pensioner and resident of Ghazipur.

Whereas the abovenamed individuals have applied for a letter of administration in the Court of the District Judge of Ghazipur, all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the deceased should appear before the Judge on the 25th April 1882, and shew cause why the application of the Mussamats named above should not be granted.

J. W. POWER,
Ghazipur, 10th April 1882. Judge.

THE ORIGINAL HARDWARE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIA.

T. E. THOMSON & CO.

9, Esplanade Row, Calcutta.

PLAIN WROUGHT-IRON SAFES,

FITTED WITH PATENT LOCKS AND DUPLICATE KEYS,

Length.		Breadth.		Depth.		
15	×	10	×	8½	Rs.	47
18	×	12	×	11	„	55
20	×	14	×	12	„	60
22	×	16	×	14	„	65
24	×	18	×	15	„	75
26	×	19	×	17	„	80
28	×	20	×	18	„	85
30	×	21	×	20	„	90
32	×	22	×	21	„	105
34	×	23	×	23	„	115
36	×	24	×	24	„	125

The above Safes are manufactured to our express order, and are admirably adapted for holding large quantities of Silver. Where extra security is required, we fit round them strong iron bands with hasps and staples for Chubb's Patent Detector Padlocks, the charge for which varies according to size of Safe, as under.

	15,	18,	20,	22,	24,	26,	28,	30,	32,	34,	36	inch.
Rs.		15			19			23		26		each.

Capacity of the above Safes for holding Rupees if in Bags containing one thousand each.

	15,	18,	20,	22,	24,	26	inch.
Rs.	1,000	2,000	3,000	5,000	7,000	10,000	

	28,	30,	32,	34,	36	inch.
Rs.	12,000	16,000	19,000	24,000	28,000	

If put in loosely or packed they will hold much more.

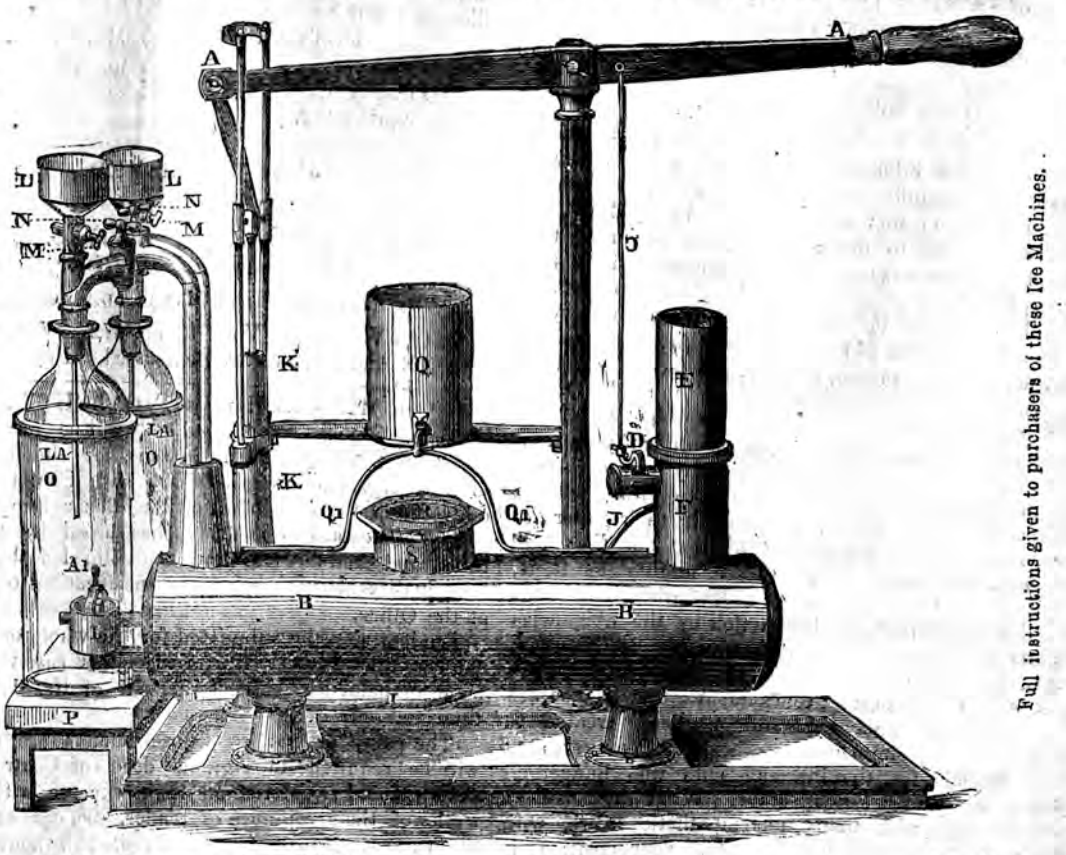
10 per cent. Discount for Cash.

T. E. THOMSON & CO.,
Calcutta.

ICE SEASON 1882.

TWO POUNDS OF PURE SOLID TASTELESS ICE IN 25 MINUTES.

PATENT PNEUMATIC ICE MACHINES (NEW MODEL) WITH ENLARGED CYLINDERS FOR ACID, AND WITH COOLING WATER TROUGHS.



Can be worked by the most inexperienced person, and is not liable to get out of order.

Full instructions given to purchasers of these Ice Machines.

For a double Decanter Ice Machine ... ... Rs. 275
For a single Decanter Ice Machine... ... ... „ 190
40lb Sulphuric Acid in Stone-jars, packed in case... ... ... „ 10-4

ARLINGTON & Co.,
3B, *Dalhousie Square, Calcutta.*

Zoedone.

A COOL, SPARKLING, DELICIOUS, NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE FOR DAILY USE.

Zoedone—Possesses both Tonic nnd Bracing qualities.

Zoedone—Invaluable to those Recovering from Fever,

Zoedone—Or Weakened by Sea-sickness,

Zoedone—Or those suffering from the enervating effects peculiar to the Indian climate.

NORMAN KERR, M.D., F.L.S., under date August 8, 1881, writes:—

"My good opinion of ZOEDONE as a social drink has been amply confirmed by further observation."

SYED MAHOMED NABI ULLAH, of Allahabad, N.W.P., writes, on 1st December, 1881, as follows:—

"Accept my sincere thanks for your idea of introducing ZOEDONE in India. I fear I cannot praise it enough. You know that a vast population of Her Majesty's subjects in India are Mahomedans, whose religion prohibits the use of wine or any other intoxicating liquor. Under such circumstances ZOEDONE is a boon and blessing to them. I think it is a health restoring, strengthening and nourishing beverage. From my own experience and from what I have ascertained from Medical men, I can certify that it is strictly non-alcoholic, and the very drink that the Indians generally and the Mussulmans particularly are in need of.

Price at agents' Warehouses at Ports of Landing Rs. 3½ per Dozen in Cases of 6 Dozen Pints.

BEWARE OF THE SPURIOUS CONCOCTIONS NOW BEING ADVERTISED.

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BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Thirtieth Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held in the Hall of the Association, on Monday, the 10th April, at 4-30 p. m.

Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, Rai Bahadur, C. I. E., President in the Chair.

The following report of the Committee was read:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE Committee beg leave to submit a summary of their operations for the past year.

WELCOME ADDRESS TO THE VICEROY.

EARLY in the year the Committee did themselves the honor of waiting upon His Excellency the Viceroy with an address of welcome. Owing to the circumstance of the Most Noble the Marquis of Ripon assuming the exalted office of Viceroy at Simla, the summer retreat of the Government of India the Committee were obliged to defer the usual ceremony of waiting on His Excellency with an address of welcome till his advent to the capital, which was delayed by His Excellency's protracted illness. The text of the Address and the Reply thereto are given in the last quarterly report of the Association.

LEGISLATION.

SMALL CAUSE COURTS BILL.—IN their report of July last the Committee have given a full resume of their correspondence with the Government of Bengal on the subject of this Bill. The Bill, the Committee understand, has undergone further modifications. The privilege of the existing body of Pleaders of the Calcutta Small Cause Court to plead in suits up to Rs. 2,000 has been recognized and the substitution of the system of record in lieu of the present summary system in suits above Rs. 1000 has been left to the discretion of the Local Government.

NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS BILL.—The Committee received a requisition from the Government of Bengal for an expression of opinion on the provisions of the amended Bill. In reply they stated that as they were only concerned to see how far the Bill would affect native Hundies and instruments of that description, they had examined the Bill from that point of view alone. The Hundi business of the country, the Committee remarked, was conducted according to a code of unwritten and customary laws, which were well understood by people engaged in banking business and which were recognized by the Courts of Justice. As the Bill did not propose to interfere with these laws and customs, the Committee had no remarks to offer upon it except upon one or two points. With reference to the provision that where usages might be excluded by any words in the instrument, indicating an intention that the legal relations of the parties thereto shall be governed by this Act, the Committee suggested that where such is the intention of the parties concerned, some words may be introduced in the proviso requiring the parties interested to indicate their consent in writing, in order to obviate future dispute and litigation. The Bill has been passed into law.

PRIVATE TRUSTS BILL.—This Bill formed one of the series of codifying measures introduced by the hon'ble and learned Law Member of the Governor General's Council. It was a measure of doubtful expediency, but as the Council was determined to pass it, the Committee thought it proper to comment on some of the detailed provisions of the Bill in a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy in Council. In the first place they took exception to the words "a person is said to have notice of a fact &c" occurring in the definition of "notice" in the Interpretation clause of the Bill on the ground that the words "wilful abstention" in the same definition will be liable to misconstruction and abuse, and may consequently lead to practical hardship. Regarding conditions of trust the Committee suggested that a class of beneficiaries should be included in the same way as an individual beneficiary. The Committee did not see the propriety of the provision which authorized trustees to extinguish or vary trusts with the consent of the beneficiaries interested. Such a provision would be opposed to the Indian family feeling, a feeling deep rooted in the Indian mind. The Committee could not assent to any power being given to trustees to vary or modify any of the conditions of trust even though the same might be done with the consent of the beneficiaries, for such a power might frustrate the original intentions of the author of the trust. It would be troublesome and expensive if a trustee were required as provided by Section 19 to furnish a beneficiary or a number of beneficiaries with full and accurate information as to the amount and state of the trust property. It would be enough if power were given to the beneficiary to demand an inspection of accounts. Referring to the provision for the investment of trust money the Committee suggested that advance of money on second mortgage of ancestral property and on the pledge of gold and silver should be permitted. In the provision regarding recoupment of loss caused to trust property by breach of trust committed by a trustee, the latter is exempted from the obligation in a case in which a beneficiary competent to contract himself has without coercion or undue influence having been brought to bear on him concurred in the breach. As coercion or undue influence is not susceptible of clear proof, the words implying the contingency of "coercion and undue influence," the Committee were of opinion, ought to be omitted. In the case where a beneficiary's interest might be forfeited or awarded by legal adjudication to Government it would be both fair and just to relieve the trustee of his burden instead of requiring him to hold on the trust property. The circumstances under which a trustee is empowered to apply for opinion to the principal court of original jurisdiction without instituting a suit will not include questions of detail, difficulty or importance not proper for summary disposal. This exclusion would defeat the very laudable object of the section. The Committee further suggested that the costs of such applications should be invariably borne by the estate for whose benefit the application is made. The power to lease out trust property for any period in excess of the duration of the trust the Committee submitted was open to objection. As to expenses which the trustee is empowered to incur for the benefit of owners the Committee suggested the inclusion of the expences of domestic religious worship and social observances. They added that when the whole of the accumulations of the estate of a minor may be appropriated to the expenses mentioned it is meet that the sanction of the Court should be taken. Where on account of the insufficiency of the income of the trust property the reasonable expenses of a minor cannot be met, the sale of the minor's property should be authorized only for the maintenance and education of the minor, but it would be unwise to do so far such purposes as his advancement in life, marriage and funeral, even with the permission of the Court. The Bill does not sanction charge for a trustee's service, the Committee were of opinion that under peculiar circumstances when a trustee is unable to spare time for gratuitous service he should be granted a remuneration for his service with the permission of Court. Unless otherwise provided in the deed of trust, appointment of new trustees on death or for other causes, the Committee suggested, should rest with the author of the trust or the Civil Court, and not left to retiring trustees which may result in mischief. The Committee remarked in conclusion that Chapter IX of the Bill relating to certain obligations in the nature of trust was so complicated and confusing that it must fitly be omitted.

In passing the Bill the Law Member accepted some of the suggestions of the Committee.

INDIAN COMPANIES BILL.—Last year the Committee received a communication from the Government of Bengal inviting expression on the Bill for the incorporation, regulation, and winding up of Trading Companies and other Associations. The Committee in submitting their reply confined their attention to four principal points. Firstly, as to formation and registration of Joint-Stock Companies the Committee observed that under the Bill the whole power of regulating a company practically will rest with the original promoters or projectors and the general body of the shareholders will be placed at the mercy of the projectors. To obviate this disadvantage the Committee suggested that after three-fourths of the shares of a company have been taken up and the company fully formed, a general meeting of the shareholders should be convened and the conditions, rules and regulations by which the shareholders propose to be governed definitely settled. These rules and regulations should constitute the fundamental conditions of the company to the supercession of the original memorandum of association. It should be competent for any company to alter any or all regulations by a resolution in a general meeting, and such resolution shall not be resumed by another within twelve months from the date of its adoption. Secondly, as to the appointment of directors of a company the Committee took leave to suggest that the members of a firm acting as agents and secretaries of a company shall not be eligible to election as directors of the same company. And to provide against the contingency of directors influencing the decision of a meeting of subscribers by procuring proxies, the law should be so altered that proxy may be given by one member in favour of another who is not a director, also that a person holding a general power of attorney of another person may be competent to serve as a proxy of his principal. Thirdly, the Committee observed that if the same firm acting as agents and secretaries of the company, be allowed to make a contract with the company, there will be conflict of interests. This would be avoided by prohibiting directors and secretaries of a company making contracts with the company. The Committee took the liberty to point out some defects in the provisions of the Bill regarding Meetings, Proceedings and notices of meetings. All notices, the Committee suggested, should be simultaneously published in the local Government Gazette and in any newspaper of the locality in which the registered office of a company may be situate, and to give better effect to the penal clause of the Bill for default in convening a general meeting within four months after the registration of the memorandum of Association of the Company, a notice of the meeting, the Committee suggested, should be left in the registered office and the proceedings of the meeting if it be held should be also deposited in that office and the Registrar should be empowered to prosecute defaulters. The provisions relating to the winding up of companies appearing to the Committee to admit of improvement and amendment, they ventured to make some suggestions. In the first place, in the opinion of the Committee, it was a questionable proceeding to make it lawful in the case of the insolvency of any contributory to prove against his estate the estimated value of his liability to future calls as well as calls already made. The section giving power to Court to order the winding up of a company was too sweeping and may at the hands of capricious judges bear hard upon companies, its omission was therefore recommended. It would be very hard, the Committee further submitted, to construe the nonpayment of a debt by a company within three weeks of demand, into inability to pay, as the refusal of payment might proceed from the circumstance of the demand not being deemed valid, or it may be excessive or barred by limitation. The acceptance by liquidators of the shares of a company in payment of the value of the property of the company in liquidation was, the Committee were of opinion, open to objection. It was meet, they observed, that in all such cases the payment should be made in cash unless the creditors of the company under liquidation should agree to accept the shares of the other company. In conclusion the Committee observed that generally the provisions of the Bill ought to be adapted to the special circumstances of India to secure public confidence in joint-stock enterprise.

INLAND EMIGRATION BILL.—APPLICATION FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE BILL.—Early in December last the Committee became apprised of the intention of Government to take up and pass the Emigration Bill by the middle of the same month. They thought it desirable to move for obtaining further time for the consideration of the measure, and in this view they applied to the Government of India in the Legislative Department to defer the passing of the Bill for at least a month and to order the publication in the Gazette of the Report of the Select Committee and the Amended Bill.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—The Government of India through the Legislative Secretary expressed their regret that they were unable to comply with the request of the Association for postponement of the Bill, which they said was sufficiently long before the public to allow of their expressing their opinion upon it. The application for postponement came too late and the Tea Association were importunate for the immediate passing of the Bill, as the recruiting arrangements for the year 1882 were in suspense pending the passing of the measure, and if it should not become law before the close of the year 1881, it was anticipated that very heavy loss would result to the proprietors of Tea estates throughout Assam. But the Government added, it will be at the discretion of any member of the Council to suggest any amendment or modifications in the Bill before the motion for passing it is made and the proposals if made will be open to full discussion by the Council.

REJOINDER OF THE COMMITTEE.—In reply to the above the Committee observed that the draft Bill prepared by the Commission and published in the *Calcutta Gazette* in January 1881 not having received the *imprimatur* of the Government of India and it being not then known whether the Government would accept the Bill in the form presented by the Commission, this Association refrained from commenting upon it, and as the Bengali translation of the Bill did not appear in the *Bengali Gazette* until the 25th of October, the Bill has not been more than a month and a half before the vast majority of the native public of this province, who are not acquainted with English, and who are presumably most interested in the Bill. The Committee again appealed to His Excellency the Viceroy to consider whether that was sufficient time for the non-English knowing public of the Bengal Province to master the detailed provisions of the Bill containing 194 sections, and to mature representations in reference thereto. Without intending to cause inconvenience and loss to the Tea planters of Assam—the Committee applied

for time not unduly to delay the Bill, but to submit an examination of the Bill on behalf of a class of their fellow-countrymen, admittedly ignorant, weak and helpless, and knowing as they do how anxious is His Excellency in Council to do justice to all classes, they were confident that though late their representations would receive a hearing. The passing of the Bill was postponed for three weeks on the motion of the Hon'ble the Maharaja Jotendramohun Tagore Bahadur, C. S. I.

MEMORIAL REGARDING THE BILL.—The Committee submitted a hurried memorial regarding the Bill. They stated that the Bill chiefly aimed at protecting the interests of the Tea planters and was necessarily one-sided. The fact of the Bill sanctioning both restricted and free emigration contradicted the conditions on which the necessity of legislation on the subject is founded. As regards restricted emigration there will be under the Bill three agencies, viz.,—I. the contractor and his recruitor, II., the garden-sirdar, III., the local agent who may be especially licensed to engagage labourers on behalf of any employer without the intervention of the Garden-Sirdar. Though these three classes of agents had the same privileges and powers, their obligations and liabilities were unequal. Great restrictions were placed upon the contractor upon whom also heavy obligations were imposed by the Bill; the Garden-Sirdar was exempted from them. Under the procedure prescribed for the registration of labourers every labourer whom a recruitor under a contractor may desire to engage must be taken before a medical officer for examination, and if certified by him to be physically fit for employment, he is then to be brought before the Magistrate or Superintendent to be examined with reference to the labourer's labor contract, he will be then registered. There will be a second examination at the depot. In the case of a labourer engaged by a Garden-Sirdar none of these precautions are obligatory. With regard to the detailed provisions of the Bill the Committee objected to the extension of the period of the contract from three to five years. When labourers are at liberty, the Committee observed, to renew their contract after the expiration of three years, if they would renew the contract they would do so with a full knowledge of the condition of labour. It will be extremely hard if the term of the engagement of labourers be per force extended from three to five years. The minimum wages of labourers have been fixed at Rs. 5 and Rs. 6, the lower rate for the first three and the increased wages for the last two years, but there is no provision for free rations. This had been done away with by the Act of 1879, on the ground that it would be interference with the laws of free trade. But the principle of free trade could not apply to places where shops are non-existent or so remotely situated as to practically amount to non-existence. The Labour Act of Mauritius provides for both wages and rations, and the position of the labourer in Assam is by no means different from that of the labourer in Mauritius. The Committee further suggested that the tasks of labour should be specified in the contract. The estate on which a labourer might be engaged to be invariably specified in the contract, the nature and terms of the contract should be explained to the labourer when the Magistrate examines him with reference to his intended contract before registration. With reference to the medical examination of the labourer and his execution of contract, and the explanation of the same by the Superintendent, the refusal of option to the labourer to execute the contract was, the Committee submitted, very hard for the labourer. When a labourer proceeding to the labour district should express a wish to return home on account of the sickness of any of his dependants it would be both humane and just to allow his prayer. Accommodation provided by the Garden-Sirdar should be first examined by the Magistrate before the labourers are permitted to be quartered in it. The Committee took leave further to suggest that the contract should be explained to the labourer before registration. Medical examination of the labourer should be made compulsory, the labourer should be allowed the freedom of refusing the execution of a contract when it is explained to him. Over and above the compensation which is payable by a Garden-Sardar or his agent for abandoning a labourer or his dependents, the Garden Sardar or his delegate should be criminally punished for wilful neglect of his charge. After their remarks on some other objectionable provisions of the Bill the Committee pointed out that the Section providing for the lodgment of complaint of a labourer against his employer through the employer himself to the Magistrate and the arrest of a deserted labourer without warrant would lead to acts of great injustice and oppression and place unprotected persons at the mercy of peons and other servants of tea gardens. The transfer of labourers with the transfer of a tea estate at the will of the planter would be treating the labourers like goods and chattels. The labourers ought, the Committee suggested, to be allowed to exercise the common right of free agent, that is to say freedom of choice.

REPLY TO THE REMARKS OF THE TEA ASSOCIATION ON THE MEMORIAL OF THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.—The memorial of the Association was criticized by the Indian Tea Association in a communication addressed to the Legislative Department. Firstly, the Indian Tea Association contended that both employers and labourers were fairly represented on the Commission, which prepared the Bill, because there were four officials especially charged with the protection of labourers and four non-officials representing employers. To this the Committee replied that the Government officers did not represent the labourers in the same sense in which the four non-official members represented the employers of labour. The Government officials represented the Government, which naturally occupied the position of judge in all disputes between the labourer and the employer of labour. At Simla where the Bill was introduced there was no native member to represent the labourer in the Council. The Select Committee did not contain a native member obviously because there was no native member at Simla, and there would have been no opportunity to add a native member to it, if the Bill had not been recommitted to the Select Committee at Calcutta. The main points of the Bill prepared by the Commission appointed for the purpose embraced questions which wholly concerned the interests of the planters, and the Committee ventured to express their opinion that it had been evidently drawn up from the employer's stand-point. Next, as the stringency of the law was necessitated by the abuses of the contractor system, the Committee observed that the Garden Sirdar who was not a man of capital required greater restriction than the contractor and yet in his case the restrictions had been considerably relaxed. The Tea Association's justification of the extension of the term of contract from three to five years from the example of the British, French and Dutch Colonies was not tenable, for the conditions of labour contract in Assam and the colonies referred to above were different. In the colonies the labourers were generally allowed rations plus wages; in Mauritius the usual rate of pay to able-bodied labourers varies according to the number of years they have worked in the island, from 10 to 16 shillings or Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per mensem exclusive of rations; in Assam if rations be supplied the cost is deducted from the wages. The Tea Association laid stress on the provision for the payment of extra wages after three years and the addition of one rupee to the pay of the coolies per month. The Committee observed that if this was a sufficient inducement any provision for compulsory renewal of contract was unnecessary. Against the objection of the Committee urged in their memorial on the Coolie Bill to the proposed transfer of labourers from one employer to another without their consent, the Tea Association adduced the law applying to British sailors, but the Committee pointed out that the positions of the British sailor and the Assam Coolie were dissimilar and there could be no fair analogy between the two. The Tea Association took exception to the proposal either for the attendance of the labourers and the manager at the Inspector's Office for the registration of contracts entered into at the plantation or for the attendance of the Inspector at Tea estates on the score of inconvenience and impracticability. The Committee suggested that since the safeguards for the due execution of labour contracts was essential to the protection of the interests of the contracting parties, the registration agency if necessary ought to be increased. As to the inconvenience to the manager of Tea estates consequent on their attendance at the Inspector's Office that might be obviated by sending an agent of the manager. The provision of arrest without warrant, the Committee continued, might have existed in the labour laws enacted since 1865, but time does not sanctify a principle opposed to justice and humanity. As often as the law has been enacted and re-enacted this Association have considered it their duty to enter an emphatic protest against it though without avail. Again, to provide for an aggrieved labourer to obtain his master's permission to lodge a complaint before a Magistrate against the same master is to place the poor labourer in an invidious position, for he would never have the courage to tell to the face of his employer that he wished to complain against him or his servant for ill usage. While the Committee concurred in the statement of the Tea Association that the exceptional nature of the conditions under which the Tea industry is carried on in Assam and Cachar required exceptional legislation, they submitted that if exceptional legislation must be had recourse to it ought to be fair and just to both parties. The Committee in conclusion observed that they were fully alive to the advantages of the introduction of British capital, energy and skill in the development of the resources of this country, and they will hail the day, which will see the establishment of free emigration into Assam, but they took leave to submit that to secure those blessings, to the labourers, the Government ought to keep a sufficient number of police and courts for a proper administration of the law and for the due protection of the weak and helpless.

The Committee regret to state that the Bill has passed into law with but slight alterations.

The instructions, which the Government of India have issued for the working of the Act, shew that the objections which the Committee had taken to the Bill were not ill-founded.

HINDU WILLS ACT.—GOVERNMENT LETTER.—The Committee received towards the end of the past year a communication from the Judicial Department of the Government of Bengal forwarding a copy of the Bill to declare the extent of the testamentary powers of Hindus and Buddhists and to regulate their wills, with a request for an expression of opinion on the provisions of the Bill and also on the expediency, if the Bill became law, of repealing Bengal Regulation XI. of 1793, Section 5, except as regards Mahomedans.

REPLY TO GOVERNMENT LETTER.—The Committee in their reply urged that the objections they had advanced against the Hindu Will's Act of 1870 have not lost their force or validity. The Hindu Community feel deeply aggrieved that a most arbitrary interference with their testamentary law, their ancient usages and cherished traditions, notwithstanding their earnest remonstrances and protests, has been committed by the Legislature. The Committee took this opportunity when it was proposed to re-enact the law and to extend it to the whole of British India, to bring once more under the consideration of the Legislature the very important questions connected with the testamentary powers of the Hindus which they raised in their previous memorials to the Viceroy in Council and to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State in reference to the Hindu Wills Act of 1870. The Committee at the outset referred to the absence of sufficient arrangements to provide for a correct and sound administration of the Hindu Law and the disadvantages under which the administrators of the law laboured in India and the law practitioners, especially those whose education and antecedents have been exclusively English or European. In fact the law as now administered, the Committee observed, has been greatly modified by the decisions of the Courts and does not retain its original character. The Committee then adverted to the restrictions put by law upon the right of the Hindu to prolong his posthumous control over his property, commonly, but not rightly called perpetuity, and to the prohibitory section regarding executory or prospective bequest whatever, unless the donee be in existence at the time of the decease of the testator. The Committee observed further that if the law may be inferred from usage, they are in a position to assert most confidently that gifts to the unborn (there being no posthumous children of the donor or testator, nor adopted sons of testator's widows) are of frequent occurrence in Bengal. Numerous instances may be readily adduced where gifts both *intervivos* and testamentary, to one unborn, have remained undisputed. Indeed, nothing is more ingrained in the mind of a Bengali Hindu than the right to bequeath his property to a person in being or to be born. This is the law and usage, and the British Courts always recognized this right of the Hindu until the decision of the Privy Council in the Tagore Will Case. In the case of Sonatun Bysack *versus* Surja Money Dassee the Lords of the Privy Council held that there was nothing against the general principles of Hindu law in allowing a testator to give property, whether by way of remainder or by way of executory bequest upon an event which is to happen if at all, immediately upon the close of a life in being. In the Tagore Will case the High Court held that the Hindu law requires the donee to be a sentient being, and that the gift to an unborn person was therefore invalid. This decision has been confirmed by the Privy Council in appeal and the Legislature having embodied the principle of case law in the statute law by enacting the Hindu Wills Act of 1870, the result has necessarily been a death-blow to the cherished usages and convictions of the Hindus. But the learned Judges of the High Court in their recorded judgments were by no means unanimous in their elucidation of the law. Even Mr. Justice Norman, who concurred with the Chief Justice Sir Barnes Peacock in the Tagore Will decision, held that limitations in favor of children to be born after the death of the testator would be valid according to Hindu law. Mr. Justice Macpherson in deciding Sir Raja Radhakant Bahadur's Will Case distinctly held that a gift to an unborn person was not opposed to Hindu law. The Committee quoting the text of the Dyabhaga from which the theory of the illegality of gifts to unborn persons had been drawn observed that, the Legislature in extending the provisions of the Indian Succession Act to the Hindus practically disallows the right inherent in them to make a gift to an unborn person, and thus departs from the avowed object of Government not to alter the substantive law of the Hindus. In fact it says in effect that a

Hindu will not be permitted to make the disposition of his property by a Will even in a way which would have effect, if he were to die intestate. The Committee expressed, however, their satisfaction that an attempt has been made in the Transfer of Property Bill to remove to a certain extent the injustice complained of by making alterations in the wording of certain Sections which have the effect of placing Hindus on the same footing as Europeans, as regards the power to make settlements on marriage or otherwise, on persons not in existence at the date of the transfer. The Committee solicited that the principle recognized in the Transfer of Property Bill be extended to the Hindu Wills Act. Regarding perpetuities the Committee added that they are fully recognized in law as well as in practice. In a country where property is liable to infinitessimal sub-divisions this mode the Committee observed, is the only safeguard against the deterioration of ancient and wealthy families. The Select Committee on the Hindu Wills Bill of 1870 made the dangerous innovation of prohibiting the creation of perpetuities in disregard of the opinions received from different provinces and in sole reliance on certain High Court decisions. The decision of the Privy Council in the Tagore Will Case was delivered after the law was passed in India, but previously to it the Privy Council upheld perpetuities not only in the shape of religious trusts but also for the benefit of future generations. The Committee earnestly prayed that with reference to the present Bill the Legislature will be pleased to restore the *statu qu ante* on the points adverted to in their representation. As regards the question of repealing section 5, Bengal Regulation XI of 1793 in the event of the Hindu Wills Bill becoming law,—the Committee deprecated the repeal on the ground that it saves the right of a person who may become an entire holder of an estate or a share of an estate. Such devolution may occur under the operation of a testamentary disposition or of family custom without a Will. The first case may be met by the Wills Act, but the last will prove inoperative in case this section be repealed.

The Bill is still under the consideration of the Council of the Viceroy and Governor General for making laws and regulations.

Cess Bill.—On the occasion of the reading of the Bill for the amendment of the Cess Act in the Council of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the question of assessing" "unculturable and unlet land" comprised in the *nijjote* possessions of a landlord for the purposes of the Road and Public Works Cesses was raised, as being repugnant to the principle of Cess Taxation. The Hon'ble mover of the Bill proposed by an amendment to limit the assessment of such lands purely to those which are applied by the proprietor to some purpose of profit, utility or enjoyment other than public utility; other unprofitable lands will not be liable to assessment but an approximate statement of their area if known should be given. With reference to this proposal the Committee pointed out to the Council that rental was the basis of assessment made in the original Cess Act of 1871. In the consolidated Cess Act of 1879 a change was made in that principle by the introduction of a note to Schedule A. Part. I. to the effect that only *nijjote* and uncultivated lands should be included in this part. With reference to the proposed amendment the Committee observed that the words "utility and enjoyment" proposed to be inserted in the amended note were vague and indefinite, because it would not be fair to assess such lands if appropriated by the zemindar for the purpose of a garden, or an embankment may be raised on them for the protection of his land, house or garden, or any portion of the land may be used as a pasture land for domestic cattle or there may be a hill on it which the zemindar may use for the enjoyment of breeze or scenery. Accordingly the Committee suggested the omission of the words "utility" and "enjoyment" and that the assessment might be restricted to lands yielding profit in some shape or other. An amendment was agreed to in the Council partially meeting the objection of the Committee.

REPEAL OF THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT.

The Annual Report of the Association for 1878 contained the following reference to this subject:

The Committee took occasion of the Press Act Amendment Bill to discuss the necessity and expediency of law for the controll of oriental publications including the vernacular newspapers. The Committee in their memorial stated that the declaration from the Head of the Government that it was the supreme reason, the safety of the empire, which had held the Government to pass a measure of such retrogressive nature in hot haste, had induced them to bow in respectful and loyal silence to the decision of Government. But the discussions which had followed the enactment in this country in the Indian Office, in the public press of the United Kingdom and in the Imperial Parliament, had laid the subject before the public in all its bearings, and shown in the humble judgement of the Committee how inconsistent was the new press law with the traditions and progressive policy of the British Government in India. The Committee further remarked that the institution of a free press in this country was the more valuable, because the governing body, being alien by birth, ideas, customs, and religion, had not the same facilities for gauging the under-currents of popular opinion that existed in a self-contained and self-governed community. They are quite conscious that the Vernacular press has shortcomings, that it is susceptible of great improvement. They had carefully perused the extracts on which the new measure was to a great extent founded, but having regard to all that had been or might be urged against the Vernacular Press they could not pursuade themselves to think that it was an engine of sedition and disloyalty, and is therefore a public danger. But they urged that should any member of the Vernacular Press be so misguided as to incite by his writings disobedience to the lawful authority of the Government or disaffection to it, the ordinary law of the land was strong enough to punish him. As for offences which the Vernacular Press contemplated to prevent such as exciting disaffection to the State, intimidating persons with a view to extortion, coercing public servants and fostering race antipathies, they were already punishable under the Penal Code. The Supreme necessity, the safety of the State, could not with any show of reason be urged for altering the law or justify the withdrawal of the ordinary jurisdiction of the Courts of Justice. If private individuals and public officers suffering from the abuse of the liberty of the press neglected to avail themselves of the benefit of the law, it was their own fault. They pointed out that no proof was adduced that the current oriental literature had been charged with the same mischievous tendencies that had been alleged against some of the vernacular newspapers, and therefore to bring it within the restrictive clauses of the Act would be putting a galling restraint upon authors and publishers, which could not but prove highly detrimental to the interests of the oriental literature. Should State policy require retention of the law the Committee urged the propriety of the trial of effenders in a Court of Justice. In conclusion they prayed for the repeal of the Act for the control of oriental publications stating that if considerations of State policy should make such repeal inexpedient, the Governor General in Council might be pleased to modify it by restricting its scope only to the offence of sedition, to omit the restrictive clause relating to oriental literature, and to provide for a fair judicial trial for all offences under the Act.

It affords the Committee great satisfaction to record that under the auspices of Lord Ripon's Government the Vernacular Press Act has been repealed, which they had prayed for in their petition to the Governor General's Council in 1878, and in their petition to Parliament.

THE INDIAN ARMS ACT.

Representation to Government.—The attention of the Committee having been drawn to the yearly increase of the loss of human life and cattle caused by wild beasts and venomous snakes and as well as to the destruction of crops caused by the depredations of such animals as evidenced by the district reports submitted to Government, they felt the necessity of some relaxation of the Arms Act at least in the provinces the people of which are well known to be peaceful, loyal and law-abiding, and they accordingly addressed Government on the subject. The facts and figures contained in the latest Resolution of the Government of India in the Home Department on the subject of the destruction of wild animals disclosed the fact that the largest number of deaths occurred in Bengal and the North Western Provinces and Oudh in the year 1880. It was noticed that the increase in the number of deaths as compared with the returns of previous years was common to all Provinces except British Burma and there was similar increase in the number of cattle destroyed by wild animals. While there was thus an increase in the number of men and cattle killed there was a decrease in the number of wild animals destroyed. The remedy which the Government of India proposed for the mitigation of the evil was greater facility in the grant of licenses by the local officers to the people of the tracts where wild beasts abounded. The Committee were of opinion that it will not be easy to issue licenses freely under the Arms Act in those tracts where wild beasts abound for *Shikaris* to kill such animals more zealously. They observed that the mere grant of the licenses imposes a restriction, which the rural population cannot but feel deeply, while the inconvenience, hardship and difficulty of obtaining such licenses were most disheartening. The primary object of the Arms Act the Committee observed, as announced by the Hon'ble member in charge of the Bill was to restrict the trade in fire-arms of precision and to restrain the use of them by the wild and unruly among the Indian population who may cherish ill will towards the British Government. But in working out the provisions of the law they were at one time brought to bear upon all kinds of arms not excepting bill-hooks in some places. Of late some relaxation has been made in this respect, but still the rules apply to other than fire-arms. As regards fire-arms the cheaper sorts of fire-arms which could be used for the destruction of wild animals, are not now readily available and the restriction put upon their importation has deterred dealers from obtaining sufficient quantities for ready and cheap sale. The rules prescribed to guard against the transport of Arms to the Frontier the Committee observed, are well calculated to fulfil that object, and what further steps may be required ought to be taken by establishing chowkeys in the frontier districts in order fully to carry out that object. When these measures are provided for to guard against the transport of arms to the Frontier it would be seen whether any necessity exists for the general enforcement of the law within the peaceful districts of Bengal. Referring to the Arms Act Rules the Committee said that they are aware that under these rules certain classes of individuals and tracts of country have been exempted from the operation of the Act, but these exemptions do not apply to the classes who alone can effect an appreciable reduction in the rapidly increasing number of noxious animals in this country. They apply to persons, who keep arms for purposes of pleasure, sport and ostentation, and not to the poor persons dwelling in wild tracts where even their homesteads are sometime exposed to the ravages of such animals. The difficulties experienced by the poorer classes in obtaining licenses for the custody and use of arms in the first instance and ammunition afterwards, are so great that many of them, the Committee are informed, have sold off their fire-arms rather than put up with this inconvenience and hardship. It is observable, the Committee further urged, that the considerations which have induced the Government of India to restrict the exemptions in the manner indicated by the rules do not apply to Bengal Proper, the people of which as is well known to the Government, are peaceful, submissive and obedient to the law and the constituted authority. For the above and other reasons the Committee solicited the Lieutenant-Governor to recommend to the Governor-General in Council the exemption of the inhabitants of peaceful districts from the operation of the Arms Act without distinction of class or creed. The Committee have not yet been favoured with any reply to their communication.

RENT BILL CONFERENCE.

In their last quarterly report the Committee gave a full account of the work doneat the Conference held in the Hall of this Association in Febrnary of 1881. They will not therefore repeat it. They will now only say that the conclusions arrived at by the Committee were those accepted by the majority present at the Conference, as perfect unanimity of opinion could not be expected on the many important points involved in the amendment of the Rent Law. The Bill discussed was the draft Bill prepared by Mr. Reynolds under orders of the Government of Bengal.

In their representation to Government the Committee observed that this Bill was a decided improvement in some particulars on that of the Rent Law Commission, but in other respects it went much beyond the latter. Being for the most part founded upon the original Bill it was open to much the same objections that had been taken to the other. The principal points embraced in the reply of the Committee to the requisition of Government were these:—The Conference recommended the omission of the provision regarding Patni taluks; they took exception to the occupancy clause of the Bill and the definition of an occupancy ryot, as also to the explanation of what would be considered a settled ryot; they questioned the statement that the proposal to confer the occupancy right on a "settled ryot" was in accord with the law and custom prevalent in Bengal at the time of the permanent settlement. They further shewed, citing facts and law, that it was the khoodkasht kudeme or resident and hereditary ryot, who had the right of occupancy, and they objected to the definition of a "settled ryot" which they explained was inconsistent with both law and custom. The Conference remarked that if a proprietor should purchase an occupancy holding he ought to be allowed the usual right of a purchaser and keep it distinct. The Conference then referred to the provisions barring freedom of contract, regarding transfer of occupancy right, enhancement of rent, abatement of rent, eviction of tenant-at-will, as also to the provisions relating to the use of land for building purposes, merger, registration of transfers of tenures, under-tenures, and occupancy holdings, to instalments of rent, deposit of rent, apportionment of rent and hypothecation of rent, to coparceners, miscellaneous rights of landlords and tenants, distraint and sub-letting. With regard to the provisions bearing upon the recusancy of ryots to quit their holdings and the power of eviction claimed by the landlord, the Conference expressed it as their opinion that these provisions would encourage tenants-at-will to hold over in spite of the landlord's wish to the contrary and to collude with the landlord's amla. The Chapter relating to the use of land for building purposes proposed to concede valuable right

to the non-agricultural population to the detriment of the landlord. With reference to this the Conference observed that the non-agricultural population could do what the cultivating ryots did that was to say, any applicant could take the landlord's permission. With regard to the Chapter on merger the Conference admitted that it was an improvement upon the existing law, but they were of opinion that the provision requiring proof regarding the publication of the deed declaratory of the intention of the owner of the estate as to the status of an inferior tenure acquired by him ought to be registered, should be dispensed with. They assented to the registration of the transfer of tenures and undertenures, but they would restrict these provisions to the transfer of holdings recognized by local custom and those by succession and sale in execution of a decree for arrears of rent. Referring to the provisions for the realization of rent, the Conference expressed their assent to four quarterly instalments except when under contract or custom the instalments were less than four in which case the contract and custom should be recognized.. As to the provisions regarding coparceners and the management of joint estates the Conference deprecated the management by delegates unconnected with the owners of estates or tenures. The distraint provision in the opinion of the conference was not calculated to facilitate recovery of rent. Without shewing a decided adhesion to the system of sub-letting of lands, the Conference specified certain special circumstances such as temporary absence of owner from home, sickness, minority, widowhood &c., under which interference with subletting would not be desirable.

FINANCE AND TAXATION.

LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—The Committee in their last quarterly report mentioned that a letter had been addressed to the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce soliciting the Viceroy's attention to certain important matters connected with the administration of the finances. The questions upon which they touched were (1) decentralization of the finances, and the claim of Bengal to the appropriation of its own provincial resources for its own benefit, (2) direct taxation, (3) License tax, the necessity of its abolition or making its incidence uniform and equitable, (4) inexpediency of the remission of cotton duties, (5) economy in the administration of the finances generally and retrenchment of military expenditure.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—In acknowledging the receipt of the letter of the Committee the Financial Secretary to the Government of India stated that the remarks made by the Committee on certain important matters connected with the Finances of British India will receive the careful consideration of the Government of India.

PAYMENT OF AFFGHAN WAR EXPENSES.

In 1879 this Association petitioned Parliament praying for an apportionment of the Affghan War expenses between England and India on a fair and equitable basis. The Right Hon'ble Mr. Gladstone, the then leader of the Opposition, was kind enough to present the petition to the House of Commons, and in doing so made the following remarks:

"I have to present a petition from the British Indian Association meeting in Calcutta. I shall not ask to have it read but I may say those from whom it emanates state that it has been frequently their privilege on the invitation of the India Government, to offer advice and suggestions regarding public measures and policy. The petition relates to the charge for the Affghan war. Its authors decline to discuss the policy of that war, but they greatly regreat the imposition of this charge upon India, and point out that the military establishments of India, instead of being a burden to this country, have, as they conceive frequently offered positive assistance to this country, and on several occasions which they enumerate, from 1842 to 1867, Indian troops had been brought for European purposes, beyond the limits strictly so called of India. They then quote the language which they understand has been used by the Prime Minister in Parliament to the effect that he considered the Affghan question as a question which concerned the character and influence of England in Europe, and they add, that they think it hard that India should be called on to pay for a war which has to do with the character and influence of England in Europe. They state that this money, out of which the expence of the war is to be met in the first instance is money already pledged according to the words of the Finance Minister, to be religiously applied as a famine Fund. They likewise state that it is not only the prime cost of the war which they regard with apprehension, but that they are also filled with apprehension at the subsequent cost which may become necessary to retain the fruits of the war, as it is impossible to say what additions will have to be made to the military establishment of India for the security of the new frontier. I have no doubt this petition will receive attention from the Committee on Petitions."

The then leader of the Opposition is now the Prime Minister of England. On coming into power he has certainly redeemed his pledge; last year Parliament on the recommendation of Her Majesty's Government sanctioned £5,000,000 from the Imperial exchequer towards the defrayal of the Affghan War expenses, which will be about one-fourth of the total expenses. This contribution is certainly very inadequate, by no means proportionate to the leading part which England, as the governing country, has taken in originating and carrying on the Affghan War, but they feel grateful to Mr. Gladstone's Government that they have given a practical recognition to the principle contended for by them whilst in Opposition and so far done justice to the claims of India.

EXCISE.

CIRCULAR FOR ENQUIRY.—The attention of the Committee had been drawn last year. to the working of the outstill system in the Excise administration of Bengal. Before the year 1876-77 the sudder distillery system was the only system in force throughout the Province for the manufacture of country spirits. But from the circumstance of its being situated at the head-quarters of a district, it could not prevent the illicit manufacture of spirits in remote and out of the way places far removed from the inspection and control of the excise officers. To prevent this illicit manufacture and at the same time to increase the excise revenue the outstill system was introduced. Under this system private distillers were granted licenses for the establishment of private stills and the sale of their produce on the payment of a certain monthly fee. In some cases this fee is fixed by the collector but usually the right to establish a still is sold to the highest bidder above a fixed minimum fee under the auction system. From the report of the Board of Revenue, the Committee learn, that the outstill system may be employed in any district or part of a district, under the direction of the Board and with the sanction of Government. It is especially suited to thinly populated, jungly or inundated, tracts, remote from the sudder distillery, and to those parts of the country where facilities exist for illicit distillation. Gradually the outstill system was extended and all district officers with rare exceptions strongly supported it, on the ground that it has not increased drunkenness, but has checked illicit distillation and increased revenue. In the Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor on the excise administration of Bengal dated the 24th June 1881 the system is defended on the ground that the excise revenue has increased from 70¾ lakhs in 1878-79. to 90 lakhs in 1881-82, while at the same time the cost of collection has declined. Under the sudder distillery system the licensed vendor had to undergo considerable expense and inconveniences; that while he in many cases distilled publicly and paid duty on spirits to enable him to keep up the necessary appearance, he supplemented this by a supply of illicit liquor, or adulterated it to increase his profit. Under the outstill system each vendor purchases the right to manufacture and sell spirits within the area commanded by his shop; he at the same time with his agent acted as preventive officer throughout the tract within the circle of his shop, to suppress competition. The revenue is protected, while the people are provided with wholesome liquor which is reported to be weaning them from the use of gunja and other delitrious drugs. The Committee make no doubt that financially the outsill system has been most successful, but the question is whether morally it has worked with equal success. Sir Steuart Bayley, acting Lieutenant Governor of Bengal in 1879 in reviewing the Excise Report for 1878-79 remarked among other things that it is premature to express a decisive opinion on the moral effect of the change. It cannot be disputed, he continued, that the license has a more powerful interest in augmenting the sale of his spirit under the outstill system than when he pays according to the amount consumed. While the Committee are fully alive to the particular evil of the sudder distillery system viz., its direct tendency to encourage illicit distillation, the moral effect of the outstill system is most serious. They have no reliable statistics before them to show the number of shops under the sudder distillery and outstill systems respectively, but from information received from different quarters it appears that liquor shops under the outstill system are multiplying fast, that the use of liquor is rapidly spreading in the rural villages, that it is even invading the school-going population. As a proof of this the case of Patna is cited where the Board of Revenue has prohibited the sale of liquor to boys under 16 years. The Committee in order to satisfy themselves as to how the evils attributed to the outstill system had actually arisen addressed a circular to official and non-official residents in the Mofussil, both European and native, including Christian Missionaries and clergymen. They requested enquiries to be directed on the following points:

1. Whether the number of liquor shops has increased under the Outstill System compared with what it was under the Sudder Distillery system?

2. Whether the rural population is now more given to drinking than before, and whether the pernicious habit has been invading the school-going population?

3. Whether the absence of restriction of area in the establishment of liquor shops has not quickened competition and cheapened liquor, and thus offered temptations to intemperance?

4. Whether, supposing that the strength of liquor has been reduced to suit reduced price, the loss of strength is not made up by increase in quantity in consumption?

5. Whether the extended use of liquor has checked the use of ganja and opium?

6. Whether you would recommend a rule of distance in the establishment of liquor shops with a view to put some obstacle in the way of easy access to them, that is to say, supposing you are of that opinion, what interval of distance you would recommend, 3, 4 or 5 miles between any two shops in rural villages, and also in district towns?

REPLIES TO THE CIRCULAR.—The replies received with one or two exceptions record the opinion that there has been a large increase of liquor shops in consequence of the extension of the outstill system and the rural population are now much more addicted to drinking than heretofore, that there is now greater temptation to intemperance than when liquor shops were not within easy reach, and that the weakness of the liquor turned out by the outstills is more than made up by the quantity obtained for consumption at a cheap price. There is a great diversity of opinion as to whether the use of liquor has checked the demand for ganja and opium. The Committee are glad to learn from these reports that the habit of drinking has not gained so much upon the school-going population as was rumoured. The opinions received by the Committee have one cardinal defect—they are not based on reliable statistics, and they cannot therefore be used with any effect in dealing with the question from a practical point of view. It should be borne in mind that under the present system of administration such statistics are not available, and therefore the most important element of comparison is absent. The Committee must watch longer the effects of the present system before they can take further action on the subject.

DISTRICT POST.

LETTER TO GOVERNMENT.—After giving a history of the circumstances which led to the enactment of Act VIII of 1862 (B. C.) commonly known as the District Daks Act the Committee observed in their letter to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Revenue Department that the assistance rendered by zemindars in the transmission of Police letters was a personal service exacted from them, that they made no money payment, that all of them were not liable to render the service. Under the Act now in force, the service has been commutted into money payment, and all zemindars whether the daks passed through their estates or not were made equally liable. The Act empowered the Magistrates to appoint and remove runners and others of the district Post establishment and to provide for the payment of their salaries. It also authorized the Magistrate to raise the funds required for the maintenance of establishment by levying a rate from the zemindars, sudder farmers and other persons paying revenue to Government in respect of lands within the district, and to exempt persons whose sudder jumma in any one district did not exceed Rs. 50 a year. It also provided that any unexpended balance of one year was to be carried on to the next year and used in reducing that year's rate, and that no zemindary dak shall be established or maintained between any two places between which a Government post for the time existed. The Committee urged that the principles on which the Act above referred to was based have been lost sight of; that the zemindari dak has been made a branch of the Imperial postal service, that the administration of the district Post has been practically left to the Postal Department, and that although in the majority of cases the zemindari dak lines have been taken by the Imperial post lines, there has been no reduction in the demand for the zemindari dak cess. The Committee further deprecated the maintenance of district dak establishments in places where there were Imperial post offices and lines. The law distinctly declares that no zemindari dak should be established or maintained where the Government dak exists. The Committee accordingly solicited that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to order that the zemindary dak shall be used only for the transmission of Police letters, that it shall not form a part of the general postal service, and that it shall be abolished and the charge remitted where Government dak is in existence.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—The Revenue Secretary to the Government of Bengal in acknowledging the

above representation intimated in reply that the question of the working of the zemindari dak system under Act VIII (B.C.) of 1862 is now under the consideration of Government and that the representation of this Association will receive due consideration.

EDUCATION.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. HŒRNLE.—The Committee in their last quarterly meeting gave a detailed account of the circumstances of Dr. Hœrnle's appointment in the Education Department of the Government of Bengal and the reasons for which they thought necessary to protest against this departure from the sound principle of religious neutrality on which the British Government in India had always acted in making appointments to the Education Department. They will not, therefore, repeat what they have already reported on the subject. Dr. Hœrnle is a Christian Missionary of the Church Missionary Society, and was before his present appointment a Professor in the Cathedral Mission College of Calcutta since abolished. At the time when the Committeé sent in their protest to Government the Doctor was proposed to be admitted into the Education Department and appointed a Professor in the Presidency College and Principal of the Calcutta Madrissa. The appointment has been since made and confirmed. The question raised by the Committee in their representation to Government was whether the employment of such a person was consistent with the policy of religious neutrality in matters of education recognized by Government. The Committee have not yet been favoured with a reply from Government on the subject.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

PAPER-BOOKS IN APPEALS.—The attention of the Committee having been drawn to the heavy cost of appeals in the High Court owing to the rules for the translation and printing of records, they made a representation to Government on the subject. They stated that the late Sudder Court which was the highest appellate court in the country used to administer justice without the use of translations. Translators were appointed in the last decade of the existence of that Court, but no fees or costs were charged upon the suitors. When the late Supreme and Sudder Courts were amalgamated into the present High Court the Government translators of the Court were required to translate the pleadings and judgments of the lower courts, and under the rules then in force paper books in regular appeals containing those pleadings, judgments and grounds of appeal and notes of evidence taken by the lower courts were printed at the expense of Government. Sir Richard Couch, who succeeded Sir Barnes Peacock, Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, issued rules requiring the suitors to bear the expense of translation and printing of pleadings and judgments mentioned above. This charge was at first limited to suits above Rs. 10,000; that limit was afterwards removed, and at last it was further extended to special appeals above Rs. 50. The Committee referred to several cases of hardship under the present rules. They observed that it was the natural right of the suitor to have his suit tried and decided in his own tongue. It had become necessary for the sake of some Judges of the Court to adopt English as the language of the High Court, and it could not be reasonable that suitors should be doubly taxed for the convenience of these Judges. The Committee urged that if the produce of the tax upon justice should leave a surplus it should be applied to the benefit of those, who contributed it. The Committee pointed out from the published civil estimates of the Comptroller General for 1881-82 that the cost of judicial establishments in Bengal in 1879-80 came to more than 65½ lakhs of rupees, and that the sale proceeds of Court-fee stamps, which are applicable to the maintenance of the judicial machinery, amounted in the same year to about eighty lakhs of rupees, which left a surplus of nearly 14½ lakhs of rupees; there were other receipts under the head "Law and Justice" which if taken into calculation would swell the surplus of 1879-80 to upwards of 22¼ lakhs. But irrespective of this sum the surplus was sufficient to meet the costs of translation and printing of paper-books. The Committee solicited that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor would be pleased to enquire of the Hon'ble the High Court as to whether or not the present rules regarding the preparation and printing of paper-books at the expense of suitors were working injuriously, whether they pressed hard upon suitors, and whether in cases of poor persons they led to a denial of justice. They ventured to suggest that considerable economy might be effected by ruling that only certain papers such as the pleadings and judgments of the lower Courts and notes of evidence taken by the latter should be translated and printed and that other papers might be read and translated at the time of hearing before the Court. The Committee have not yet heard from Government on the subject.

ARREST OF ZENANNA LADIES.—The Committee having included this subject in their last report need not dwell upon it at length. The arrest of some *purdanushin* women in the execution of decrees of the High Court and their detention in jail having created great sensation among the native community the Committee submitted a representation to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject. In this they recommended for the consideration of Government the expediency of abolishing imprisonment for debt in cases of *purdanushin* women, or in case it be considered inexpedient to go to that extent, they suggested the alternative plan of first attaching any property a *purdanushin* woman might have and in absence of such property referring her to the Insolvent Court. The present law, the Committee submitted, should be so far modified as to leave the creditor no option either to attach the property or the person of the female judgment-debtor.

The Government before coming to any decision on this particular question, have invited opinion on the general question of abolition of imprisonment for debt.

INCLUSION OF BANKI, A TRIBUTARY MEHAL IN CUTTACK, IN THE REGULATION DISTRICTS. The Committee received a communication from some respectable native residents of Cuttack requesting the co-operation of this Association to oppose the proposal of Government to include the Tributory Mehal of Banki in the Cuttack District among the regulation districts. The Committee in their reply to the applicants stated that as they were in favor of the regulationization of districts they could not consistently oppose the proposal of Government. They were of opinion that the more the outlying districts would be brought under the reign of laws there would be greater security for the administration of justice.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES IN BENGAL.

REPRESENTATION TO GOVERNMENT.—The Report on the Charitable Dispensaries in Bengal for 1879-80 and the Government Resolution thereon having caused much alarm among the native community as to the ultimate disposition of Government with regard to these institutions, the Committee thought fit to represent to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal the circumstances which led to the establishment of these dispensaries, their gradual progress and development and the necessities which made their permanent existence indispensable. Giving a brief history of these institutions the Committee brought to notice how from 57 dispensaries existing in 1868 they rose to 255 in 1879. They took leave to observe that the Government had incurred a double responsibility by encouraging the extension of the European system of medicine and thereby superseding the indegenous native system, and by having by its own rules pledged State aid to these institutions under certain conditions. To withhold the aid or to reduce it now, the Committee submitted, would involve a breach of faith and gross injustice to the people. It would be a sad disappointment to the donors in aid of these dispensaries if while they fulfilled the conditions imposed upon them the Government aid were withheld or diminished. The proposal to restrict the aid of Government to Charitable Dispensaries was based on the assumption advanced by the Government of India in 1849 that it was beyond the recognized province of a Government to provide medical aid for the great body of its subjects, but there has been a wide departure from this principle in the subsequent operations of Government. The revised rules adopted by Sir Cecil Beadon and sanctioned by the Supreme Government virtually set aside the principle enunciated in 1849. Nor was this principle, the Committee urged, consistent either with justice or with the advancement of public spirit among the people. They further observed that they could not understand why the Government aid should be given to charitable hospitals and dispensaries in large towns and not to those that might be established in small towns and villages, the necessities of the poor in rural towns and villages being manifestly greater than those in large towns. The Committee next adverted to the proportion of Government aid to the dispensaries. From the statement of receipts and expenditure of Charitable Dispensaries in 1879 the Committee noticed that out of the total expenditure of about 5¾ lakhs the Government contribution amounted to about 1¾ lakh or nearly ⅓ of the whole, and that of this sum salaries absorbed a lakh aud seven thousand rupees, registers and forms and European medicines more than half a lakh, and especial allowance close upon 13,500. Surely, the Committee remarked, it could not be reasonably contended that the Government was not in a position to make this small contribution annually in aid of the Charitable Dispensaries in Bengal. Referring to the principle of classification of the dispensaries in Bengal and the rules for their management, the Committee observed that the rules were fair enough and by no means threw any undue burden upon the general revenues. If these rules were duly enforced, the Committee expressed their belief, that the object aimed at by Government by enacting them would be attained. Comparing the working of the Charitable Dispensaries in Bengal with that of those in the North West Provinces and Oudh the Committee shewed from the figuros of 1879 that whereas the proportion of receipts from private sources in Bengal was 33·9 per cent that for the latter was 24·4 per cent. As for abuses they should certainly be corrected, but the existence of abuses could not be a just argument for the withdrawal of Government aid. With reference to the revised rules for the management of charitable hospitals and dispensaries, the Committee observed that they differed materially from the rules of 1872 and do not lay down any fixed principle on which Government aid is to be given. The Committee also made some observations on minor points.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—The Government in reply stated that it is in contemplation to entrust the administration of district medical charity, with fixed assignment of funds, to the Districts Boards to be hereafter constituted, and that in the settlement of the details of the measure the representations contained in the letter of the Association will receive due consideration.

EMBANKMENTS.

LETTER TO GOVERNMENT.—The practical working of Section 34 of Act VI. (B.C.) of 1873 having led to encroachments on the rights of private persons the Committee deemed it necessary to bring the matter to the notice of Government and in that view they addressed the Government of Bengal in the Revenue Department. They pointed out that the provision of the section referred to vesting in Government the proprietory right in lands, pathways &c., in the neighbourhood of embankments was new and had no counterpart in any previous regulation or Act relating to embankments. They observed that on the strength of this provision Government Engineers were demolishing the houses of ryots which stood on the top or on the banks of embankments, and were compelling them either to give up possession of those lands or execute kubulyats in favor of Government for which ryots had been paying rent to their landlords. After describing the circumstances and conditions under which the lands were occupied by ryots the Committee observed that the practice of taking earth from the side lands of embankments did not take away the proprietory right in the lands. Apart from the question of the legality or equity of the provision of section 34 above referred to, the Committee asked whether the law, as it stands, authorizes the wholesale seizure of

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lands of which complaint had been made to the Engineers. They urged that as private rights were being unlawfully invaded, it was necessary that the Government should put a stop to this sort of arbitrary spoliation. They therefore solicited that in accordance with the orders passed by Government in 1876 a circular may be issued to local officers directing that no lands which have hitherto been in the possession of zemindars, and for which they received rent, may be taken over by such officers.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—The Government in reply stated that in the contemplated amendment of Section 34 of the Embankment Act the representation of the Association will receive full consideration.

The Committee are glad to state that in the amending Act the complaint has been in a great measure obviated.

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION WITH ASSAM.

DEPUTATION TO THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.—Towards the end of August last an influential deputation composed of representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, the British Indian Association, the Trades Association and others interested in the Tea District of Assam waited upon the Lieutenant-Governor to urge upon His Honor the necessity of establishing Railway communication with Assam. They laid before His Honor the scheme put forward by the Hon'ble Mr. Prestage for a line starting from Naraingunge, and running through Dacca and Mymensing to Gowhatty, connecting it with the Eastern Bengal Railway by means of a steam ferry. The chief recommendations for the scheme were that a quick means of communication will be opened between Calcutta and Assam and with a prospect of opening a line to Sylhet and Cachar, facilities will be offered for the transport of food to the tea districts and thus cheapening their cost to the people thereof. As regards the terms of concession the deputation not only demanded those granted to the Bengal Central Railway Company but asked further that the Government shall subscribe one-fourth of the capital required and guarantee three-fourths of the interest on debenture loans to be raised by the Company. With regard to the financial conditions proposed in the address of the deputation opinion was not unanimous. Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore on behalf of this Association stated that they had not had time to consider their propesal and they therefore did not pledge themselves to the same. Mr. Inglis the President of the Chamber explained that the proposal had been inserted in the address with a view to elicit public discussion.

REPLY OF THE LIEUTENTNT GOVERNOR.—The Lieutenant-Governor in reply referred to the survey made of a line from Goalundo to Dacca and Mymensing with a branch line to Naraingunge. The cost of this line, His Honor said, had been estimated at 124½ lakhs of rupoes, 62½ lakhs of which will be taken up in the short distance of 43 miles between Goalundo and Dacca. In the scheme put forward by Mr. Prestage a steam ferry of powerful and quick steamers proposed to be substituted for this portion of the line. His Honor added, that he had no doubt whatever that, for many years to come a ferry will be better than a railway over that part of the country. What is wanted is fair and easy communication and not great speed and all this can be provided without the enormous expense of the Aircha Dacca Section, with its expensive bridges and costing no less than 1½ lakhs of rupees a mile. His Honor next gave an account of the action taken with reference to the Mymensing line and the prospects of its early and speedy construction. His Honor promised a survey of the proposed line and at the same time strongly supported the idea of employing local capital for local works.

DURGA PUJA HOLIDAYS.

LETTER TO GOVERNMENT.—The action which the Committee took on the subject arose under the following circumstances: The Bank of Bengal had issued a notice by advertisement in the daily papers and the official *Gazette* that the Bank will be kept open during five out of the twelve authorized holidays during the Durga Puja and the reasons assigned for this step were (1) the necessities of the mercantile community, and (2) the demand of the Exchange Banks. The Comptroller General also notified that the Council Bills will be paid at the Bank of Bengal on the days on which the Bank is open, and the Currency Office will be kept open for two days for business till 1 P. M. On seeing this notification the Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendra Mohun Tagore C. S. I. and the Secretary waited upon His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to represent the views of the Association on the subject, and under His Honor's instructions they called upon Mr. Westland, the Comptroller General, to enquire about the reasons and scope of his order. They stated that coupling his order with the Bank of Bengal notification it would appear that the Government Treasury at the Bank and the Currency Office will be kept open for certain days of the Durga Puja Holidays. As to the Government Treasury Mr. Westland said that he would see arrangements made which would obviate the necessity of keeping it open. With regard to the Currency Office the Comptroller General quoting certain passages from the Government of India's Resolution No. 458, dated the 20th January 1880 said that he as Comptroller General having been called upon to report what arrangement he would recommend in order to meet the requirement of the mercantile Community and reduce to a minimum the inconvenience and loss which they would suffer, recommended that the Council Bills should be paid at the Bank during the holidays, and that the Currency Office should be kept open to a limited extent. Regarding the payment of the Council Bills the Committee observed that when the Bank observed the holidays in years past no complaint was heard on the score of their non-payment. The Paper Currency Office, Mr. Westland said, would be kept open for the convenience of the outside public coming to Calcutta during holidays. This reason, the Committee submitted, implied consideration for a limited interest which was more than outweighed by the large and national considerations, which had led the Government of India to cancel its first orders on the subject of the Durga Puja Holidays and revert to the original rule. For these and other reasons the Committee solicited His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to take their representation into consideration and to forward it for consideration and orders to the Government of India with such remarks as to His Honor might seem fit.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—The Government of Bengal in acknowledging the above representation stated in reply that the offices under the local Government will be closed as usual except the Custom House, but that the Bank of Bengal and the Currency Office being not in any way under the control of the local Government, it was not within the power of the Lieutenant-Governor to interfere with the arrangements made for the couduct of business in those offices during the Durga Puja Holidays. The Lieutenant-Governor, it was added, was not aware of the circumstances under which the change had been decided upon, all that he could do was to forward the representation of the British Indian Association to the Government of India. In accordance with the recommendation of the Bengal Government the Government of India was pleased to cancel the notification of Comptroller General and a telegraphic message was sent from Simla to that effect.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*April* 12, 1882.

GENERAL.—Moulvie Abdool Huq, Temporary Sub-Deputy Collector, Bogsa, is transferred to Julpigoree, and is posted to the Buxar sub-division of that district.

Kumar Rameshwara Singh, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Bhagulpure, is allowed leave for one month, under section 81, chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Mr C. E. Buckland, Officiating Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Gya, during the absence, on duputation, of Mr. W Kemble, or until further orders.

Mr. J. Scobell Armstrong. Deputy Collector, of Customs, Calcutta, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah, *vice* Mr. C. E. Buckland.

Mr. F. H. B. Skrine, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is appointed to act as a Magistrate and Collector of that District, during the absence, on privilege leave, of Mr. E. J. Burton, or until further orders.

Mr. H. F. J. T. Maguire, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, is vested with appellate powers under section 87 of Act VII (B. C.) of 1876.

Moulvi Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector, Furreedpore, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Goalundo division of that District.

Mr. H. W. Gordon, Officiating District and Sessions Judge Mozufferpore, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. C. T. Metcalfe, Magistrate and Collector of Patna, returned to duty from leave on the forenoon of the 27th ultimo.

Baboo Kasi Kinker Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector, Tipperah, is vested with powers of a collector, under Act x of 1870, for the purpose of acquiring land required for public purposes in that District.

Baboo Omullo churn Mullick, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy collector, Rungpore, is transferred to Buxar in the District of Julpigoree.

Mr. E. R. Henry, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor, is appointed to act as Magistrate and collector of chumparun, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. J. C. Price, or until further orders.

Mr. T. Smith, District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan is allowed furlough for eight months, under section 49, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 12th May next.

Mr. A. W. Paul, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Manbhoom, on special duty, is transferred to the 24-Purgunnahs district, and is posted to the Sudder Station of that district.

Mr. D. J. Macpherson, Assistant-Magistrate and Collector, in charge of the Seetamurhee division of the Mozufferpore district, is allowed leave for three months, under section 71, chapter V of the civil Leave code,, with effect from the 18th instant.

Mr. E. Stewart, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mozufferpore, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Seetamurhee division of that district.

Baboo Bhoobendro Nath Roy, Sub-Deputy Collector, Palamow, Lohardugga, is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade, *vice* Baboo Satya Taran Mookerjee, deputed to license-tax duty in the district of Hazarcebagh.

Moonshee Barmeshwar Persad is appointed temporarily to be a Sub Deputy Collector of the second grade, *vice* Baboo Bhoobendro Nath Roy, and is posted to Hazareebagh.

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